Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Wife of Matubis again appeals for help, believes someone holding him. PAGE 2

Presidential debate shapes local opinions. PAGE 3

POLL RESULTS

Do you believe the federal government should step in and help resolve the crisis surrounding CUC?

Yes-**79**

No-**20**

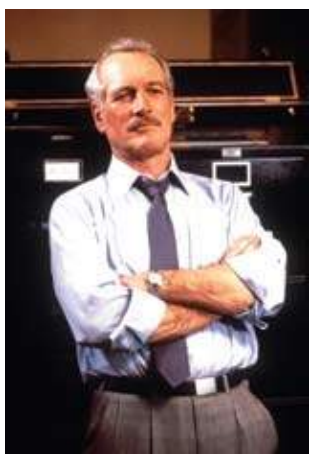
Sunday, September 28, 2008

INSIDE

Tentative Deal

Congressional leaders and the Bush administration reached a tentative deal early Sunday on a landmark bailout of imperiled financial markets whose collapse could plunge the nation into a deep recession.

Nation...Page 15



Paul Newman, 83

Paul Newman never much cared for what he once called the "rubbish" of Hollywood, choosing to live in a quiet community on the opposite corner of the U.S. map, staying with his wife of many years and–long after he became bored with acting–pursuing his dual passions of philanthropy and race cars. The 10-time Academy Award nominee died Friday at age 83, surrounded by family and close friends.

Life & Style...Page 21

Miura asks federal court for his release

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Kazuyoshi Miura has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order Department of Corrections commissioner Lino S. Tenorio to release him from custody.

Miura

See MIURA on Page 4

Taotao Tano calls for Crisostimo resignation

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cruz

A local activist group has called for the resignation of Sen. Luis Crisostimo, who is running for congressional delegate.

Taotao Tano CNMI president Greg Cruz in a letter to Senate President Pete P. Reyes

See TAOTAO on Page 4

US Coast Guard rescues crew from container ship near Saipan

HAGATNA,Guam— From a 24-hour command center here in Apra Harbor, the U.S. Coast Guard coordinated the successful medevac of two male crew members from a an ocean-

See US on Page 4

TRADITIONAL TALISMAN JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Bojobo wishing dolls or a Chamorro tribe's traditional talisman are displayed at the exhibit during the first day of the 3rd annual Chamorro Conference at Saipan World Resort.

Fourth Torres sibling takes attorney oath

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It is rare to see three lawyers in one family. But it is rarer to imagine seeing four lawyers in one family, including one woman, in the CNMI.

Judy Marie Deleon Guerrero Torres has joined her elder brothers—attorneys Vince, Joaquin, and Victorino of the Torres Brothers Law Firm—in the law profession.

Judy Marie, 25, took her oath of attorney before CNMI Supreme Court chief

See MIURA on Page 4

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Attorney Judy Marie Deleon Guerrero Torres poses with her parents, brothers, justices, and judges during her oath taking as the newest NMI Bar member Friday morning. Judy Marie Torres is joining her three lawyer brothers of the Torres Brothers Law Firm.

Local

Wife of Matubis again appeals for help, believes someone holding him

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The wife of the missing Filipino surveyor, Alex Matubis, believes that he is still alive and that someone is possibly holding him.

Matubis

Malou Matubis once again has appealed to the community to help her locate her husband, who has been reported missing since last July 30.

Mrs. Matubis arrived on the island last Sept. 7 after learning of her husband's mysterious disappearance.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* on Saturday, Mrs. Matubis said if Alex is suffering mental problems he could have somehow surfaced.

She said that, on July 29 at 10am, her husband even sent her money and that he left his passport in the barracks.

Later that afternoon, Mrs. Matubis said, somebody saw him withdrawing money from First Hawaiian Bank.

That same day, the 47-year-old surveyor, did not return to his barracks. The following day he was supposed to return to Tinian where his company has a project.

Mrs. Matubis said that, on July 31, Minda Castro, the husband of his employer, called to inform her that he was not seen anymore.

After spending 45 days vacationing in the Philippines, Alex Matubis went back to Saipan last June 28.

On July 28, he went to Tinian for a project. The following day, Castro picked him up at the Saipan airport.

The Matubis couple have two children.

Mrs. Matubis said they don't have problem because he is very religious and supportive to the family.

Mrs. Matubis and activist Irene Tantiado showed up during Saturday's induction of officers of the Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects (MAFEA) where Alex Matubis is a member.

MAFEA members and officers provided financial support to Mrs. Matubis and vowed to help her in finding her husband.

Earlier, police said there are indications that Alex Matubis is still alive and wandering around the island.

Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Division chief, Maj. Edward H. Manalili, had stated that investigators

See WIFE on Page 4

Legislation to prohibit payment of unused govt sick leave introduced

Government employees will no longer be able to claim advance annual leave benefits or cash out their unused sick leave credits if a bill passes into law.

Rep. Justo S. Quitugua has penned legislation prohibiting any government agency from offering annual leave and paying for unused sick leave benefits. The purpose of the bill is to cut the government's personnel expenses.

If signed into law, the measure will apply to all new government contracts. It will require any employee who receives payment in violation of the law to immediately return the money. Any official who authorizes the payment will be fined $2,000.

In his bill, Quitugua notes that the government offers a very generous benefit package that includes advance annual leave, maternity leave, paternity leave, and compassionate leave. These benefits, he says, are "additional unfunded liabilities of the government."

"As the Commonwealth is facing an economic crisis of major dimensions," Quitugua adds, "the government can no longer be relied upon as the most generous employer in the Commonwealth nor can it continue to serve as the Commonwealth's most lucrative source of employment. The government also can no longer continue to pay employees for not worker. It is appropriate and prudent that the government pay only for work that is performed."

(Agnes E. Donato)

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PUBLIC NOTICE
SEPTEMBER 27, 2008

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIVISION (DCD) OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THRU ITS CHAIRWOMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2008 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Roll Call
II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS
V. REPORTS
1. Financial Report – DCD
2. Loan Reports
   a. Approved Loans & Bank Guarantees
   b. Bank Guarantees Status' Report
   c. Loan Status/Receivables Report
   d. DCD Performing Loan Summary/Delinquency & Litigation
VI. OLD BUSINESS
VII. NEW BUSINESS
1. New Loan Applications/Borrower's Requests
VIII. OTHER MATTERS
IX. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman, DCD Board of Directors

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/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
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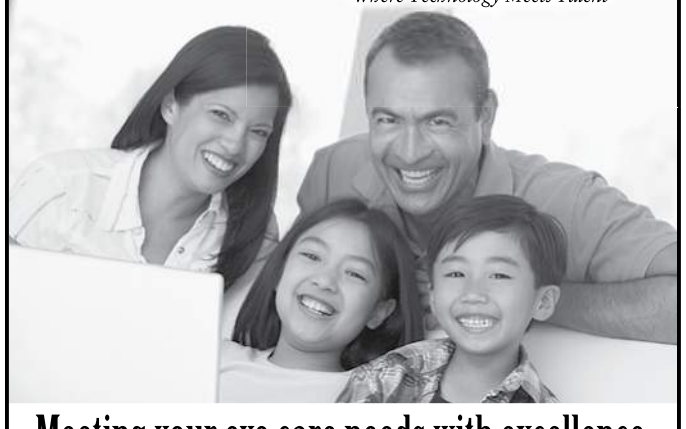

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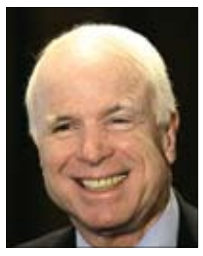
Presidential debate shapes local opinions

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

In the dimly lit Tribes bar Saturday morning, a handful of local voters gathered to watch presidential candidates Sen. John McCain and Sen. Barack Obama debate for the first time in this year's race for the White House; and as the two contenders traded barbs on television from the opposite side of the globe, the talk clearly influenced opinions on the election here.

Hosted by the local Democratic Party, the gathering saw a small but vocal turnout of Saipan residents on both sides of the nation's electoral spectrum, which became apparent in the audience's reactions as the two presidential hopefuls weighed into each other on government spending, America's economic crisis, and national security issues.


McCain

Obama

In the aftermath, one key point for the debate watchers was the rhetoric McCain—a long-time opponent of the Senate's earmark spending—had fired at Obama on fiscal responsibility, saying Obama has accepted $923 million in pork barrel funds for his Illinois constituency during his Senate career. Obama supporters downplayed its impact.

"The issue of government spending is Republican boilerplate talk," said Scott, an audience member who declined to give his full name. "It just doesn't really resonate in the way they think it does and I think Obama more than held his own."

However, McCain supporter Sergio Loya said his candidate—a senior senator who has never accepted an earmark—had raised a point that sets him apart from Obama.

"That's quite distinguishable," he said. "That's [Obama] going into the Senate and doing what everybody else does because everybody else gets away with it. It's a legitimate criticism."

Yet McCain's stance on spending could pose a serious concern to the CNMI, which depends on federal support for a host of needs, if he wants to clamp down on earmarks as president, Obama supporter Angelo Villagomez said.

"The CNMI should be worried if John McCain is suggesting a spending freeze," said Villagomez. "We should be worried about a lot of things he has said."

At several points, McCain had also hammered Obama by suggesting the younger lawmaker lacks the experience needed to serve as president, at times suggesting he is "naïve," an issue that has long plagued Obama's campaign. But this line of attack failed to shake local Obama supporters' confidence in their candidate.

"Experience is a good thing but it doesn't necessarily equate with always knowing the right thing to do," said Laurie Peterka. "You can't solve the world's problems today with yesterday's thinking."

Meanwhile, observers on both sides still found common ground on some issues, with some Obama supporters commending McCain's stance on the environment and at least one McCain backer acknowledging that the political fallout over the ongoing war in Iraq has hurt the Republican party's standing as election day draws near.

According to the results of a CNN and Opinion Research Corporation poll, 51 percent of observers sampled believe Obama won the debate, while 38 percent said McCain had prevailed.

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GAO: Visa waiver program in 'confusion'

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

The Department of Homeland Security's visa waiver program is in a state of confusion amid federal authorities' efforts to expand its scope to include new countries, a Government Accountability Office official said in testimony before a Senate subcommittee last week as tourism and business leaders in the CNMI are vying to see the inclusion of Russia and China in the joint Guam-CNMI brand of the program.

The extent to which GAO's analysis of DHS's national visa waiver program speaks to the status of the joint Guam-CNMI program is uncertain because officials say the local version is distinct on several points. However, GAO's findings suggest DHS' administration of the visa waiver program on the whole is suffering from several key shortfalls.

In the testimony, given before a Senate homeland security subcommittee, Jess Ford, GAO's Director for International Affairs and Trade, said the efforts of President Bush's administration to expand the visa waiver program have followed a process that lacks transparency and fails to abide by DHS's own standard operating procedures.

Consequently, embassy officials and countries vying for inclusion in the program—which allows foreign visitors to the United States from preapproved nations to enter without a visa—are reporting that the Bush administration's effort has "created confusion," Ford said.

"Absent clear direction from DHS, U.S. embassy officials in several aspiring countries told us it had been difficult to explain the expansion process to their foreign counterparts and manage their expectations about when those countries might be admitted," said Ford, adding that Department of State officials have noted that countries like Taiwan and Israel—which have low visa refusal rates—are wondering why DHS has forgone negotiating with them about admission to the program.

The testimony also notes that DHS has failed to develop plans aimed as assessing and mitigating security risks involved with the visa waiver program, pointing to the agency's lack of progress on two mandates in the so-called "9/11 Ac"t requiring it to monitor and confirm the departure of foreign visitors from participating nations and to put in place an electronic system to screen visa waiver travelers ahead of their arrival in the United States.

To resolve these issues, GAO recommends that DHS implement a plan to coordinate with the State and Justice departments on expanding the program that includes criteria on which countries will be considered for it and clear timelines for selecting and approving them. Moreover, GAO says DHS should designate an office to monitor overstays under the program and improve the reliability of the data needed to evaluate the illegal immigration risks involved in countries' participation.

GAO's testimony comes after local officials with the Marianas Integrated Immigration Task Force-a group of CNMI and Guam officials organized after President Bush in May signed legislation federalizing the region's immigration rules-presented a report earlier this year to the departments of Homeland Security and Interior in a bid to see the inclusion of Russia and China in the local brand of the visa waiver program.

China and Russia are critical to the future growth of the local tourism market, the task force report notes. The CNMI has already invested $35 million to market itself in China, it says, which has 36 million outbound travelers each year. Last year alone, an estimated 45,000 Chinese tourists visited the Commonwealth.

The impact of losing visa exemptions that have let foreign visitors travel freely to the CNMI and Guam would be staggering, the report shows, costing the islands millions each year. Tourist spending in the CNMI for 2008 is projected to total more than $1 billion with the visa waivers in place, it says. Without them, that figure would drop to about $876 million. Projected losses to the local tourism market without the waivers are even greater in the future. By 2010, the report says, tourism spending with the waivers in place would reach nearly $2 billion, but would sit at roughly $1.3 billion without them.

WIFE

From Page 2

found so far no traces of foul play behind the disappearance.

"We're working on leads, pursuing leads very aggressively," the major said. "His safety is our utmost importance."

Manalili believes that Mr. Matubis is still alive considering that after his disappearance was reported in the newspapers on Aug. 8, he was later sighted in Marpi area that led to the discovery of his blue Toyota pick-up truck near Kalabera Cave on Aug. 19.

The major noted that the hood of the truck was still hot when investigators found the vehicle.

"He might need medical help," Manalili said, adding that very depressed people like to be alone.

The CID chief is asking anybody from the community to call his office at 664-9042/45, 911 or the Crime Stoppers Hotline at 234-7272 of any sightings of Mr. Matubis.

US

From Page 1

going bulk carrier 750 nautical miles north of Saipan.

The 36-hour mission began when the container ship *Occam's Razor* emailed the Coast Guard in Hagatna for help Sept. 26. The container ship at that time was 750 nautical miles north of Saipan in favorable weather conditions—with seas of less than four feet and winds out of the east at 10 knots and overcast skies.

The ship's master reported that two crew members were seriously injured and in critical condition after an accident occurred when cargo shifted unexpectedly. A U.S. Air Force long-range aircraft from Kadena Air Force Base in Japan launched six pararescue jumpers—or "PJs"—to the deck of the container ship for medical assistance at 2:30 a.m. (Guam Standard Time) Sept. 27.

PJs are elite special operations command personnel with advanced medical training and often jump or parachute into hostile or "denied-entry areas" to recover downed military pilots. They are also deployed, however, on humanitarian missions where no other help is available for hours or hundreds of miles.

Coast Guard search and rescue controllers in Guam directed the container ship to a position approximately 150 nautical miles from Saipan and early Sunday both crew members were successfully airlifted by Navy helicopter to Guam for medical treatment.

Two U.S. Navy search and rescue helicopter crews from Guam's Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Two Five (HSC-25) flew out to the vessel at the offshore rendezvous point and picked up the injured crew members and PJs.

One patient went into cardiac arrest just before the helicopter hoist and the PJs performed CPR for 70 minutes to save his life. That crew member was transferred to Naval Hospital Guam at 8 a.m. Sunday and the second was delivered approximately 45 minutes later.

For more information about this case, please contact the Coast Guard's public affairs office in Honolulu at 808-535-3230 or Lt. Elizabeth Buendia of Coast Guard Sector Guam at 671-355-4818. ***(USCG)***

FOURTH

From Page 1

justice Miguel S. Demapan on Friday after passing the NMI Bar.

Ben and Primitiva Torres, the proud parents of the now four Torres lawyers, flew all the way from the U.S. mainland just to attend the historic attorney admission ceremony for their youngest of six children.

"Rare to find here on Saipan and also anywhere. I did not know if that is ever seen (four lawyers in a family) in Guam or the U.S. mainland," said chief justice Demapan in his welcome remarks.

Demapan congratulated Ben and Primitiva Torres for a "job well done."

"It is not easy to uproot and relocate the entire family to the U.S. It is difficult to move away from our beautiful islands and into a foreign neighborhood," he said.

The chief justice said Ben and Primitiva Torres bring a source of pride for the family and the Commonwealth in general.

For Judy Marie, Demapan's only advice to be successful in the legal field: Deliver good quality work and have high ethical standard.

Judy Marie in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* said it is a very warm feeling now that she can practice law alongside with her brothers and to be with them every step of the way.

"It is a very warm and just happy feeling. There's no other words I can describe it," she said.

Judy Marie flew to Japan last Thursday just to meet her parents and make sure they got here on Saipan for the ceremony.

Judy Marie and her parents all arrived on Saipan Friday at 1:30am. Her father was seen wiping his tears during the ceremony.

"They're both getting older. Having them here to share this moment it's a final symbol of their work and their dedication," Judy Marie said.

With respect to the NMI Bar exam, Judy Marie said it was very difficult.

"It's one of the scariest things that you could ever prepare yourself for and the waiting for the results is agonizing," she said.

Judy Marie studied at Sister Remedios and Saipan Community School then moved to the U.S. mainland. She finished law at Thomas M. Cooley School of Law.

Primitiva Torres, a former teacher at William S. Reyes Elementary School, said she is very happy and that she is praying that her daughter will do the best she can.

"All I do is just treat my kids with love, respect, and I try my best," Primitiva Torres said when asked how did she and Ben were able to produce four lawyers and one congressman (Rep. Ralph Torres).

Primitiva and Ben Torres are going back to Idaho in a few days where they are now staying under the care of their other son, Troy.

TAOTAO

From Page 1

pointed to a constitutional provision that requires an elected official to resign once certified to run for another position.

"Clearly our constitution states that Senator Crisostimo should resign from office since he is an elected official. We believe that since you are the presiding overall officer and president of the Senate, it is your duty to immediately request for his resignation," said Cruz.

Senate legal counsel Antonio Cabrera has issued a legal opinion indicating that the resignation requirement applies to Crisostimo, who is serving his second term as senator and who has been certified as a candidate for Commonwealth delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

But Reyes, in an interview, said the Senate has been offered another legal take on the matter. That opinion is based on the Hawaii Supreme Court's ruling on a suit former Hawaii state legislator Steve Cobb filed in 1986 to determine whether a state senator must resign his seat in order to become a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives. The Hawaii Supreme Court held that the drafters of the constitutional provision did not show intent to include candidates for federal office within its scope, and therefore a state senator was not required to resign in order to run for Congress.

Reyes also said the Senate cannot force Crisostimo out because technically he is not violating any Senate rule by running for Congress. "We don't have anything in our rules about a member running for a federal position. So it's not within our power to expel him. But that does not stop any citizen from taking him to court for possibly violating the Constitution," he said.

Yet, the Senate president said that if he were in Crisostimo's shoes, he would step down for ethical reasons. He said an elected official owed it to the people who put him in office to resign when he is no longer interested in keeping the position for which he was elected.

MIURA

From Page 1

In Miura's petition for a writ of habeas corpus filed on Friday in federal court, attorney Mark B. Hanson asserted that their client's continued detention in the CNMI is in violation of his constitutional rights guaranteed him by the U.S. Constitution.

Hanson said the CNMI courts have denied Miura habeas corpus relief and ordered his extradition to California.

"The Commonwealth courts' decisions involve an unreasonable application of established federal law," said Hanson who is among Miura's three lawyers on Saipan.

The CNMI courts, he pointed out, erred in their application of U.S. Supreme Court precedence and have ordered the extradition of the 61-year-old Miura to California based on Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's warrant.

On Friday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson granted Miura's emergency motion for a stay of Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona's extradition order.

This developed as Miura's lawyers filed the emergency motion as well as a petition for habeas corpus before the federal court Friday afternoon.

In a one-page order, Munson said Miura's emergency motion for a stay of extradition is granted until further order of the court.

Munson set a hearing for today, Monday, at 9am. No other information was specified in the order.

On Saturday, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Steven Van Sicklen ruled that Miura cannot be tried for murder in the 1981 shooting of his wife. He, however, did not dismiss the charge of conspiracy to commit murder.

More Japanese journalists are expected to cover today's hearing in federal court. As of yesterday morning, some members of the Japanese TVs, were seen surveying the vicinity of Horiguchi Building in Garapan where the federal court is located.

The visiting journalists were looking at possible angles where they can take footages of Miura before and after the hearing.

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"My wish is to become a firefighter!"
Saipan Tribune

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DLNR opposes bill reserving public lands on Tinian

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources has urged Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to veto a bill reserving certain public lands on Tinian for agricultural homesteads and commercial uses.

DLNR Secretary Ignacio Dela Cruz said the Legislature has no business managing public lands, as that authority is reserved for the Department of Public Lands.

"At the very least, the Legislature is overstepping the responsibilities and duties not reserved for itself. Worse yet, the Legislature is infringing on executive branch functions, and that is to implement laws it itself passed," Dela Cruz said.

For this reasons, he said the governor should disapprove the bill.

Under the proposed legislation, a total of 524 hectares of public land on Tinian will be reserved for agricultural homesteads and commercial uses.

Some 140 hectares of the Chalan Famalao'an for commercial and other purposes, as determined jointly by Tinian's mayor, municipal council, and legislative delegation. About 40 hectares of the area will be reserved for agricultural or residential homestead lots. In addition, the bill proposes to designate 384 hectares in the Pina area for agricultural homestead lots.

Fitial

Proponents of the legislation maintain that certain areas must be reserved for commercial use, as there is a limited amount of public lands available on Tinian and there must be resources available for future economic investment opportunities.

They also note the long list of Tinian residents who have been waiting for agricultural homestead lots.

But Dela Cruz argues, "Designation by law tends to hamper development and progress, both on the designated public lands and adjacent lands. For example, the Legislature has found that the remaining available public lands on Tinian is very little. This finding alone is telling that the Legislature ought not to statutorily restrict development on those remaining public lands."

He adds that, instead of passing legislation to reserve public lands for specific purposes, the Legislature should push for the development and adoption of a land use master plan.

Large-scale assessment and school principals are focus of REL studies

Two reports recently prepared for the United States Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences by Regional Educational Laboratory Pacific, administered by Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL), focus on the status of large-scale assessment and the status of the preparation and hiring of school principals in the Pacific region.

Prepared by Jennifer Ryan and Scott Keir, PhD, "The Status of Large-Scale Assessment in the Pacific Region" addresses the need for effective large-scale assessment as a major priority for improving student achievement in the Pacific region jurisdictions: American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM; Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap), Guam, Hawai'i, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Republic of Palau.

The primary purpose of large-scale assessment is accountability and the provision of information to the federal government, state education agencies, key stakeholders, and the public on whether and how well schools are meeting achievement standards

The chief state school officers and curriculum and instruction chiefs and directors of research and evaluation made it clear that educators want information related to the adoption, development, and revision of large-scale assessment for use with the culturally and linguistically diverse students in the Pacific region jurisdictions. This technical brief responds to that identified need.

"The Status of the Preparation and Hiring of School Principals in the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Region," prepared by Sharon Camblin, EdD, and Scott Keir, PhD, responds to the requests of regional state education agencies and the urging of REL Pacific advisory groups to build on the recently published *Issues & Answers* report, "Preparing and Licensing High Quality Teachers in the Pacific Region Jurisdictions."

The *REL Technical Brief* describes the current status of the preparation and hiring of school principals and answers a central question: *What academic, practice-based, and standards and policy criteria are used in the preparation and hiring of principals in the Pacific region?*

It was found that many jurisdictions had established certification standards and policies relatively recently, and that the procedures and criteria for preparing and hiring school principals vary across jurisdictions in model, requirements, and implementation level. The only requirements common to all 10 jurisdictions are that principals must complete some college-level coursework and have teaching experience.

REL Technical Briefs is a new report series from Fast Response Projects that help educators obtain evidence-based answers to their specific requests for information on pressing education issues. *REL Technical Briefs* offer highly targeted responses across a variety of subjects, from reviews of particular studies or groups of studies on implementation issues for the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, to compilations or quick summaries of state or local education agency data, to appraisals of particular instruments or tools, and to short updates of *Issues & Answers* reports. All *REL Technical Briefs* meet Institute of Education Sciences (IES) standards for scientifically valid research. For more information about IES, please visit *http://ies.ed.gov*.

PREL is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation that works in partnership with the Pacific educational community to provide quality programs and products developed to promote educational excellence, including professional development and educational materials. In addition, PREL administers the Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Pacific, 1 of 10 Regional Educational Laboratories funded through the Institute of Education Sciences of the U.S. Department of Education. With a commitment to ensuring that all students have an equal opportunity to develop a strong academic foundation, regardless of circumstances or geographic location, PREL serves the U.S.-affiliated Pacific islands, including American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM; Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap), Guam, Hawai'i, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Republic of Palau. For additional information about this media release or PREL and its work please contact Jackie Burniske, Director of Communications, by telephone at (808) 441-1300 or by email at burniskj@prel.org . ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995

NOTICE OF SECRETARY'S ORDER ON APPEAL

Monday, September 22, 2008 first notice
Monday, September 29, 2008 second notice

Orders have been issued in the cases listed below and the parties have not picked up these orders after attempted service. By this notice, these parties are served with a copy of the order, which may be picked up at the Administrative Hearing Office, as of the second publication of this notice.

Case No.	Appellant	Appelllee
LC 06-091	Capital Corporation	Fan, Zhi Yan
LC 06-092	Happy Inc.	Lu, Jin Hong
LC 06-104	Lacanlale, Noemi G.	Director of Labor
DC 06-372	Zhi, Hang Inc.	Director of Labor
DC 06-372	Zou Yong Su	Director of Labor

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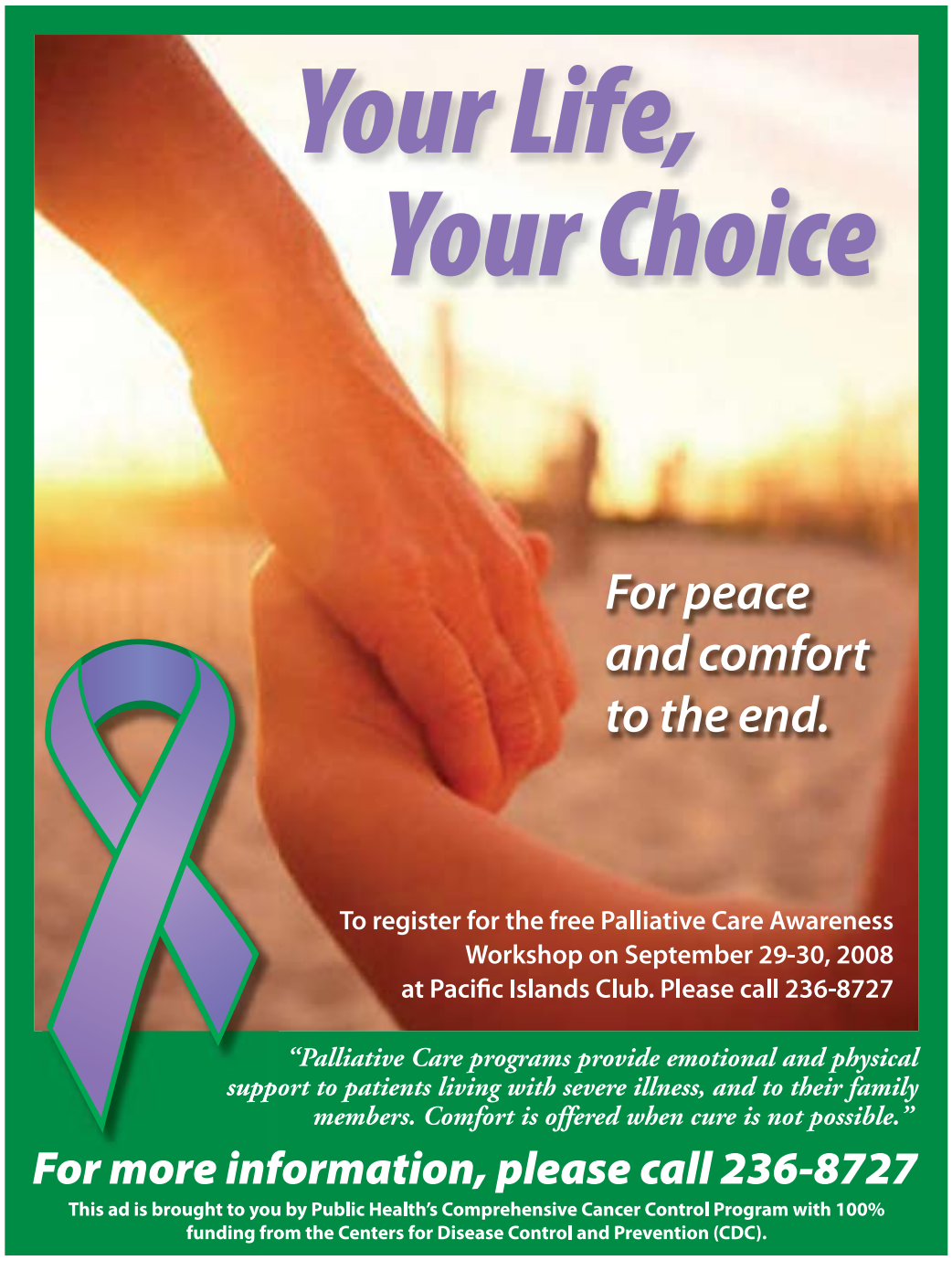
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A snapshot of Pacific power

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It may seem as if the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s power woes are unique to the CNMI, but in fact many other Pacific jurisdictions are going through similar issues. How they are handling the issues, though, differ. Here's a snapshot:

Marshall Islands: In July, President Litokwa Tomeing declared a national state of economic emergency after rising fuel costs threatened the government's ability to maintain power in Majuro, Ebeye and other islands. The government utility companies raised power rates three times since January, but revenue has fallen because customers were cutting back on their consumption or were disconnected for not being able to afford power. The two power companies bring in about $1.3 million in revenue per month, but the cost of diesel to run each plant is about $2.8 million per month. In August, the emergency was extended for 30 more days. The government contributed $5.3 million to pay for a fuel shipment that will last through October. A new shipment to be ordered in October will require an additional estimated $4 million.

In 2006, the mayor and council of Ebeye Island asked the federal government to declare a state of emergency because the island's generator was only able to provide power for four hours at a time. The U.S. Army lent Ebeye Island two small generators to keep water and sewage facilities running.

For fiscal year 2007, residential customers paid an average of $0.221 per kW hour.

In July and August of this year, residential customers paid $0.41 per kW hour.

Yap: The Yap State Public Service Corp. is similar to CUC because it is government-owned but is financially independent. The Yap State Legislature recently passed a law making it illegal for the company to use a variable fuel charge. The law lowered the price from an average of $0.332 per kW hour in fiscal 2007 to $0.131 now. The company is now only charging customers the base rate of $0.131. To make up the difference, the Yap State Legislature appropriated approximately $500,000 a month for fuel. The YSPSC is currently restructuring the rate plan and proposing an increase to $0.238 per kW hour. Public hearings on the increase will be held next month.

Samoa: Due to rising fuel rates, the Electric Power Corp. raised the fuel surcharge from 25.76 percent to 45.92 percent.

Hawaii: Rates change depending on the island. On Oahu, the Hawaiian Electric Company sets the power rates. The average cost for residential customers is $0.205 per kW hour. On the island of Hawaii, the Hawaii Electric Light Company charges $0.327 per kW hour for residential customers. The Maui Electric Company sets the rates for Maui, Molokai and Lanai. Residential customers on Maui pay $0.28 per kW hour, while Molokai residents pay $0.342 per kW hour and Lanai customers pay $0.328 per kW hour.

Guam: The Guam Public Utilities Commissioner sets Guam Power Authority's rates. GPA must petition GPUC in order to change the rates. There are two rates: a fixed base rate and a variable fuel rate component. Until 1999, rates changed every month but now they are bi-annual. The Guam Power Authority is currently petitioning for a base rate increase.

Currently, residential customers using 500 kW pay a total bill of $77.15, customers using 1,000 kW pay $173.28, and customers using 1,500 kW pay $269.41. GPA is seeking an increase of 2 to 8 percent for each rate. According to GPA, the increase will improve customer service, improve reliability and quality and improve efficiency.

CNMI: In August, Gov. Benigno Fitial declared a state of disaster emergency for CUC saying Saipan's main power plant could explode at any time or maim or kill power plant workers. The declaration also suspended CUC procurement regulations and waived the pre-review by the Public Utilities Commission of CUC's power supply contracts. Fitial extended the state of emergency in September.

In May, CUC more than doubled the cost per kW hour for resident customers from $0.176 to $0.357. Customers using less than 500 kW are paying $0.378 for the month of September.

Sources: Utility company representatives and Web sites; media releases; and other news reports.

CARLSMITH BALL LLP
VINCENT J. SEMAN, F0361
JOHN D. OSBORN, F0172
Carlsmith Building, Capitol Hill
P.O. Box 5241
Saipan, MP 96950-5241
Tel No. 670.322.3455

Attorneys for Plaintiff
BankPacific, Ltd.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANKPACIFIC, LTD., Plaintiff, vs. **WILMER R. SABLAN aka WILMER RABAGO SABLAN and EMERITHA T. TORRES aka EMERITHA TAISACAN TORRES,** Defendants.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0360** **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order of Sale issued by the Court in this matter on September 15, 2008, I will cause to be sold at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, to satisfy a Judgment entered June 03, 2008, in favor of Plaintiff, Defendants' interest in and to the following real property situated in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as described below:

Lot No. 011 G 942 containing an area of917 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 18, dated December 03, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4286, dated December 09, 1993, the description herein being incorporated herein by reference.

1. **Date, Time, and Place of Sale.** The sale, open to the general public (including the Defendant), will be on October 24,2008 at 3:00 p.m. at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

2. **Inspection of Property.** Failure to inspect the property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by the bidder.

3. **Warranties and Covenants.** The property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of merchantability, and/or title for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyer shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

4. **Conduct of Sale.**
a. RESERVE. The sale may be held with reserve. Disclosure of the reserve price on the property offered will be at the sole discretion of the undersigned.
b. BIDS. Bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed. The highest of such advance bids will be the opening bid for the property. Advance bids may be submitted in writing and delivered to Vincent J. Seman, Carl smith Ball LLP, Carlsmith Building, P.O. Box 5241, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or error in delivery of bids.
c. DISPUTES. The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice of Sale if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.
d. DEPOSIT. Immediately after the sale is consummated the successful bidder must pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance of 90% must be paid to the Plaintiff, in care of **Carlsmith Ball LLP**, Attorneys At Law, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, Plaintiff shall retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and may again offer the property for sale.
e. MEMORANDUM OF SALE. Ifrequested by the undersigned, a successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale immediately after the sale of the property is struck at auction.

5. **Court Approval Required.** Every property sale is subject to approval by the Court. The Auctioneer and Plaintiff make no warranties or promises with respect to Court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of Court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted. The sale is subject to the judgment debtor's rights of redemption pursuant to Commonwealth law.

6. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages. of the CNMI governing auction sales, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties: (1) to withdraw the property listed in this Notice, and such withdrawal may occur before the sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale, without notice, at any time before the property is struck off; (3) to reject, on behalf of the Plaintiff, any and all bids for any reason, the exercise of either of which will be without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby.

7. **Change of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any ofthe tenns hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 26th day of September, 2008.

/s/ **VINCENT J. SEMAN**

CARLSMITH BALL LLP
VINCENT J. SEMAN, F0361
JOHN D. OSBORN, FOI72
Carlsmith Building, Capitol Hill
P.O. Box 5241
Saipan, MP 96950-5241
Tel No. 670.322.3455

Attorneys for Plaintiff
Bank of Hawaii

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF HAWAII, Plaintiff, vs. **SYLVIA ARRIOLA PE and RENA TO S. PE,** Defendants.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0455** **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order of Sale issued by the Court in this matter on September 24, 2008, I will cause to be sold at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, to satisfy a Judgment entered April 16, 2008 in favor of Plaintiff, Defendants' interest in and to the following real property situated in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as described below:

EA 415-3NEW-3 (formerly part of EA 415-3 NEW, which was part of original EA 415), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2026/89, the original of which was recorded 07 DEC 88 as Document No. 88-3910 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

1. **Date, Time, and Place of Sale.** The sale, open to the general public (including the Defendant), will be on October 24, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

2. **Inspection of Property.** Failure to inspect the property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by the bidder.

3. **Warranties and Covenants.** The property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of merchantability, and/or title for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyer shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

4. **Conduct of Sale.**
a. RESERVE. The sale may be held with reserve. Disclosure of the reserve price on the property offered will be at the sole discretion of the undersigned.
b. BIDS. Bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed. The highest of such advance bids will be the opening bid for the property. Advance bids may be submitted in writing and delivered to Vincent J. Seman, Carlsmith Ball LLP, Carlsmith Building, P.O. Box 5241, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or error in delivery of bids.
c. DISPUTES. The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice of Sale if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.
d. DEPOSIT. Immediately after the sale is consummated the successful bidder must pay to the undersigned a deposit often percent (10%) of the purchase price. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance of 90% must be paid to the Plaintiff, in care of **CARLSMITH BALL LLP, Attorneys at Law,** within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, Plaintiff shall retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and may again offer the property for sale.
e. MEMORANDUM OF SALE. If requested by the undersigned, a successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale immediately after the sale of the property is struck at auction.

5. **Court Approval Required.** Every property sale is subject to approval by the Court. The Auctioneer and Plaintiff make no warranties or promises with respect to Court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of Court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted. The sale is subject to the judgment debtor's rights of redemption pursuant to Commonwealth law.

6. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the CNMI governing auction sales, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties: (1) to withdraw the property listed in this Notice, and such withdrawal may occur before the sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale, without notice, at any time before the property is struck off; (3) to reject, on behalf of the Plaintiff, any and all bids for any reason, the exercise of either of which will be without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby.

7. **Change of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 26th day of September, 2008.

/s/ **VINCENT J. SEMAN**

Live Fire Training at FDM scheduled

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas (N3) Guam, would like to inform the general public that the U.S. Military Unit would be conducting Live Fire Training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla.

The schedule dates and time are as follow:

- Sept. 29-30, 2008 from 09:00am to 6:30pm – LIVE FIRE Training
- Oct. 1-3, 2008 from 09:00am to 6:30pm – LIVE FIRE Training

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area (R7201) on a ten (10) nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is advising the general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

The cooperation and understanding of the general public is greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Emergency Management Office, Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(EMO)***

ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION (RCGC)
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 1547 ROTA, MP 96950

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, the RCGC's regular monthly meeting will be held as follows:

DATE : **Tuesday, September 30, 2008**
TIME : **3:00 P.M.**
LOCATION : **Antonio Camacho Atalig Memorial Annex Building, Tatachog, Rota**

AGENDA:

Call To Order
Roll Call
Adoption of Agenda
Adoption of Minutes
Chairman's Report
Old Business
  Personnel Matters
New Business
  Procurement
Miscellaneous
Adjournment

At anytime during meeting the commission may move to executive session.

/s/ Diego M. Songao
Chairman

September 24, 2008
Date

US Coast Guard establishes small boat station in Apra Harbor

HAGATNA, Guam—At an official ceremony Friday, Sept. 26, the U.S. Coast Guard established a small boat station here in Apra Harbor. It is the Service's first small boat station in the Mariana Islands.

Small boat stations typically perform the bulk of the Coast Guard's near-shore or shallow water work, responding to distress calls, enforcing security and safety zones and interacting with recreational boaters to promote safety on the water.

Station Apra Harbor joins 188 other Coast Guard small boat stations throughout the United States. The legacy of the U.S. Coast Guard small boat station dates back to the establishment of the U.S. Lifesaving Service in 1878. The multi-mission role of Coast Guard stations comes from the merger of the U.S. Lifesaving Service and the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service that formed the U.S. Coast Guard in 1915.

"It's a great honor to help establish this station," said Chief Petty Officer Eric Benafel, the officer in charge of the new unit. "It is foremost a call to duty, a call to leadership, and a call to selflessness, and the men and women of Sector Guam's boat forces section treasure this opportunity to serve our country, protect our island and her people."

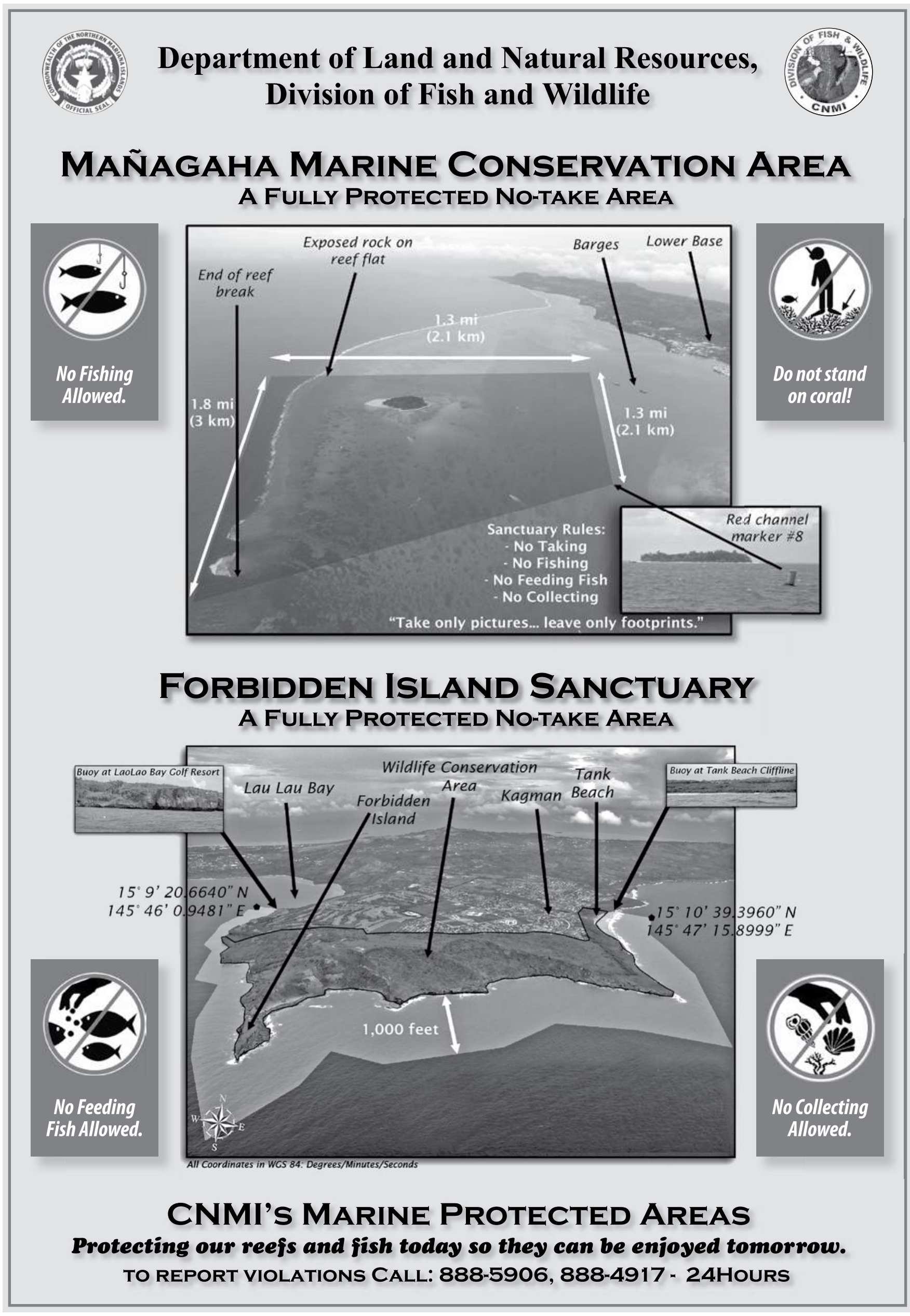
Benafel is a Boatswain's Mate chief petty officer and will lead a crew of 17 active duty and 11 reserve enlisted personnel. The Coast Guard is unique in that the service entrusts leadership positions—called "Officer-In-Charge billets"—to senior enlisted members.

"We have the utmost confidence in Chief Benafel to lead a fine team of Coast Guard men and women at Station Apra Harbor," said Capt. Thomas Sparks, commander of Coast Guard Sector Guam and the service's senior-most officer in the territory. "Station Apra Harbor will greatly enhance our ability to serve the residents of Guam."

The station's crew will maintain and operate three 25-foot "Defender Class" small boats. As an independent command operating under Sector Guam, Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor will carry out missions in support of America's maritime safety, security, and stewardship interests. The new station will be heavily tasked with performing law enforcement, search and rescue, homeland security, and homeland defense operations.

The establishment ceremony was held on the waterfront at Apra Harbor and was attended by more than 100 people, including Guam senators, Guam's police chief Paul Suba, Guam Fire and Rescue Capt. Sal Monteverde, Capt. William Marhoffer the chief of prevention of the Fourteenth Coast Guard District and Cmdr Tess Neumann of Coast Guard Atlantic Area.

Capt. Stephen E. Mehling, the Fourteenth Coast Guard District chief of staff, presided over the ceremony.



Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTISIA POT MAPROPOPONE NA ATKILONTANO PUBLIKO

Segun gi lai 15-2, I Depattamenton Tano ha anununsia planon atkilon tano publiko giya Saipan, Commonwealth i Sankattan siha na Islas. Todo man-interesao libre munahalom opinion `sino infotmasion pot imapropopone na plano nuson tano publiko. Maprebeniye lokue isigiente siha na infotmasion para benefision publiko tat komo:

i. I tineteka na tano publiko madeskribe komo 003 A 11 (49,450 metro kuatdrao), 003 A 20 (49,503 metro kuatdrao), yan 003 A 19 (10,000 metro kuatdrao) maso sino menos nigaige giya Magpi, Saipan. Kopian lugat este siha nasitiu gaige gi Depattamenton Tano ni libre maina nu I publiku.

ii. I para u inatkilai Flame Sako Resort yan Spa un kotporasion guine giya Marianas. I membron direktot siha isigiente: Kang Dae Sik, Joon Sung Jung yan Woon Hwa Chung.

I Presidenten I kompania si Kang Dae Sik; Chun Sik Min, Segundo Presidente.

iii. I para u atkila ilugat para u usa gimahatsan fasilidat hotel yan otro siha na fasilidat.

I tetminonestena kontrata para 25 años ya siña ma-ekstende talo 15 años.

I mapropopone na atkilon manegosio as Señot Young Woo Lee.

iv. Libre hao mamaisen kopianestena plano gi Depattamenton Tano ni gaige gi segundo bibienda gi Joeten Dandan, Saipan; offisinanTano Publiko giya Luta yan Tinian.

v. I Depattamenton Tano ta ya otro plano ha resibe gi uson este siha na propiadat publiko giya Magpi, Saipan.

vi. I Sekretarion Depattamenton Tano Publiko siña ha resibe todo ninahalom opinion yan materiat pot este na proposito uttimo gi Oktubre 3, 2008 todo Offisinan Tano Publiku giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong ischil mángámangiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap. Me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngali milikka ebwe akkatééló.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap ekke bwáári Lot No. 003 A 11, eyoor faigh me tiwow sangaras fabwughuw limeigh me tiwow llapal (49,459 square meters), elap me ngáre eghús, Lot No. 003 A 19, faigh me tiwoow sangaras, lima bwughuw elluw (49,503) sq. meters llapal, elap me ngare eghuus, me Lot No. 003 A 20,, seigh sangaras (10,000) sq. meters, llapal, elap me eghus, elo Máschepi, Seipél. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor llól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngare óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge Flame Sako Corporation. Schóól Assamwoolul mwiisch (board of directors) mellol corporation nge Dae Sik Kang me Chun Sik Min.

Samwoolul (President) corporation nge Dae Sik Kange. Vice President nge Chun Sik Min.

iii. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááyá bwuley ngali schagh akkayul hotel me akkaw iimw kka a fillong.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon ebwe ruweigh me limwoow ráágh (25 years), emmwel rebwe sóbweey ngáli bwal seigh me limwoow ráágh (15 years).

Pomwol akkilon ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél falúw (value of the property).

Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Young Woo Lee.

iv. Emmwel óubwe bwughil tilighial akkilon mellól bwulasiyool ammwelil falúweer toulap, elo aruwowal pwó(2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Dandan, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Buiding, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

v. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo akkááw pomwol akkilon yeel me Máschepi, Seipél.

vi. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ebwe bwughil aweewe kkaal, aingiingil, mereer amweyút aramas mmwal schagh Ottuubre (October) 3, 2008 mellól Depattamentool Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta me Tchúlúyól..

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot Nos. 003 A 11, 003 A 19, 003 A 20 containing areas of approximately 49,500 square meters, 10,000 square meters, and 49,503 square meters (respectively), more or less, situated in Marpi, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Flame Sako Corporation, a CNMI corporation. The Board of Directors of the corporation are Dae Sik Kang, Joon Sung Jung, and Woon Hwa Chung.

The President corporation is Dae Sik Kang. The Vice President is Chun Sik Min.

iii. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and operating a resort hotel and spa and related facilities.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.

The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Young Woo Lee.

iv. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

v. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Marpi, Saipan.

vi. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before October 3 , 2008 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

Rota, KNT win prestigious award at JATA Conference

The winners of the 15th Annual Tour of the Year 2008 award recipients were announced last Sept. 19 at the JATA World Trade Fair held in Tokyo.

The awards were presented by the Tour of the Year Executive Committee, which is chaired by Kaoru Kanetaka. An awards ceremony was held on a stage specifically prepared for the ceremony.

For the first time this year Grand Prix awards were handed out in four categories with the Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transportation Awards being newly created awards. The product that has been uniquely planned and has excellent sales results was conferred a "Judge's Special Award."

Applications for the awards totaled 133. Applications of overseas packaged tour products increased to 86 from 78 of last year. Among them ten products were recommended by the tourism authorities or embassies.

Tenorio

The prestigious "Judges Special Award" went to KNT for their Golden Week charters flown to the island of Rota. With the focus being specifically on Rota rather than Guam or Saipan, KNT scheduled charter flights to carry tourists to the destination where infrastructure was improved through the cooperation of airlines and local organizations. This included airport expansion, enhancement of boarding bridge and bus transportation, as well as tourism development. This was all accomplished without causing damage to the natural environment that Rota is so well known for. The judges described this as "a product created through a brave challenge of developing something new in Micronesia with great efforts." The product was praised as "one of model cases, including a buyout system, of the tourism industry in the future." Murata of KNT accepted the award on behalf of the organization.

"The MVA would like to extend its congratulation to Kinki Nippon Tourist for receiving the JATA—Judge's Special Award for its Golden Week charters to the island of Rota, said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "This prestigious award is a testament of KNT's commitment to the CNMI travel industry and the emergence of Rota as a standalone tourism product." ***(MVA)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 29, 1999

Teno, lawmakers decide to scrap FY 2000 budget

Unable to reach consensus as to which departments and agencies should suffer budget cuts, the Legislature and the administration decided yesterday not to pass the spending proposal for FY 2000, while granting Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio greater flexibility in managing government resources. This means that the government will operate under the same spending limit approved last year, but with restrictions to ensure departments and agencies do not exceed their appropriations.

DOLI: Number of guest workers drop

The CNMI government has carried out reforms to reduce the number of overstaying aliens and curb the abuse of guest workers in Northern Marianas, according to Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark D. Zachares. In a letter to U.S. Sen. Frank Murkowski, chairman of the Resources Committee, DOLI chief debunked claims by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service General Counsel Bo Cooper that majority of the nonresident workers are "temporarily" employed under indentured contracts.

Teno gives nod to $60-M bond float

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio signed into law yesterday a bill which authorizes the Commonwealth Development Authority to float $60 million worth of bonds that would generate the local matching funds for capital improvement projects listed in the 702 CIP Plan. House Bill 11-435, entitled Capital Improvement Project Bond Authorization Act and introduced by Rep. Karl T. Reyes, became Public Law 11-102.

September 29, 2000

OPA TELLS GOV'T: Fight corruption

The CNMI government needs extra effort to fight graft and corruption in public service which Public Auditor Leo LaMotte said is quite rampant in the Northern Marianas and should be addressed immediately. "The level of corruption in the Northern Marianas is quite intolerable although there is as much corruption in the CNMI as there is in other countries throughout the world," Mr. LaMotte said in an interview yesterday.

NMIRF seeks $6-M funding to settle government's unpaid bills

The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund is seeking a $6 million funding from the Legislature to wipe out the outstanding debt of the government's health insurance program and hire a review utilization firm. Health providers from the U.S. mainland and Hawaii have demanded $5 million to settle the unpaid billings of the government health insurance, according to Vicente Camacho, board chair of the NMIRF.

Separate balloting for gov., lt. gov. introduced in House

A legislative initiative has been introduced in the House of Representatives that will seek separate voting for governor and lieutenant governor in what its sponsor said is an effort to encourage leadership in the government. Article III Section 4 of the NMI Constitution provides joint election of the two top public officials under one ticket similar to that in the United States.

September 29,2002

Business earnings down 16 percent

Businesses in the Northern Marianas continue to reel from the financial affliction caused by the mammoth drop in visitor arrivals since 1998, giving birth to a historic four-year-old economic crisis in the Commonwealth. Records obtained from the CNMI Department of Finance revealed that Business Gross Revenue dropped 16.5 percent during the first semester of the financial year 2002 compared with the tally during the same period last year.

Elvis rocks Saipan

The King of Rock 'N Roll, Elvis Presley, has been dead 25 years but his legacy lives on through the thousands of impersonators who have immemorialized his voice, songs, signature moves and essentially, his 42-year existence. One such impersonator, or as he prefers to call it, illusionist, is James Primacio, Hard Rock Café-Guam's sole Elvis act.

Local soldier celebrates birthday away from home

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Robert O. Lieto, center, hold his birthday cake in red plastic plate, as his comrades gather around for a quick photo inside their barracks in Texas after a training.

Everyone may have been tired and exhausted after returning from a long day of field combat training, but everyone remembers a special day for one soldier.

Thousands of miles away from home last Sept. 18, Robert Lieto of the U.S. Army was surrounded with his island brothers he calls his family. One by one, everyone started walking toward Robert, singing the *Happy Birthday* song.

With the effort of Staff Sergeant John Aguon and Specialist Rudy Kaipat, they were able to be creative of what they can gather around the barracks to make a birthday cake out of cookies from the cafeteria, a pound cake from the military meal ready to eat, and M&M candies.

Smiling while holding his so-called birthday cake in a red plastic platter, Robert was speechless, but managed to say, "Thanks guys, I really appreciated this."

Although Robert was a little shy while everyone was singing the birthday song for him, he said, "It was just like home away from home" recalling his family on Saipan.

He added, "the boys make me feel very happy and joyful today" while smiling and looking down at his cake.

Robert is reservist from Saipan and Guam, 100 battalion, 442nd infantry, E Company, 4th platoon. He is a machine gunner, who will be deploying to the Middle East within the next few months. ***(SSG Fabian M. Indalecio)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
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NOTICE OF CLOSURE
AGENCY, LABOR, AND DENIAL CASES
Monday, Sept. 22, 2008 first notice
Monday, Sept. 29, 2008, second notice

Each of the cases listed below has been adjudicated or dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office, Department of Labor. In each case, this is a final administrative order with prejudice and the agency case, labor case, or denial case has been closed by the Department. All claims, including all claims for money damages, and all claims for eligibility for transfer, have been either adjudicated or dismissed. Any complainant or employee of one of the respondents listed below who has not been served personally with the hearing officer's order adjudicating or dismissing the case is now, as of the date of second publication of this notice, served with the order. A person served by means of this publication may obtain a copy of the hearing officer's order from the Administrative Hearing Office. A person whose claim has been dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office has fifteen (15) days from from the date of second notice in which to appeal the order. This publication does not affect any prior order served personally or by mail on any person.

CASE #	COMPLAINANT	EMPLOYER
08-006	Susan, Antonio A.	Ada, Edward B. (deceased)
05-356	Li, Minglong	Aldan, Vicente M.
07-315	Ramos, Gracita M.	American Joint Partner Corp., Ltd.
98-402	Zhang, Zhanshan	American Kai Hua Corp.
98-402	Zheng, Fengrong	American Kai Hua Corp.
04-698	Yan, Luo	American Langente Corp.
07-072-05	Director of Labor	Chang Cheng Int'l, Inc. and He, Jing Hua
01-172	Liu, Geng Rong	Crystal Star Corp.
01-172	Zhang, Jiaxian	Crystal Star Corp.
05-336	Li, Zhen	Date Corporation
05-336	Peng, Shue Xiong	Date Corporation
07-020-02	Director of Labor	DLZ American Corp. and Alan Leung
05-368	Micronesian Brokers Inc. (ER)	Doila, Maria M. (EE)
07-075-06	Director of Labor	Domingo, Crispina F. aka Salazar, Grace
DC 06-325	Hua, Bofu	Edward C. Cabrera
DC 06-326	Bao, Yuhua	Edward C. Cabrera
DC 06-327	Wang, Yanni	Edward C. Cabrera
07-079-06	Director of Labor.	Guzman, Linglingay
06-143-11	Director of Labor	Herman's Modern Bakery
99-194-05	Director of Labor	Hole In The Wall and Misamis Saipan, Inc.
00-264	Heo, In Sook	Jeon Co., Inc. and Kuk Young Jen
07-008	Gu, Xuetian	Jing Yang Corp., et. al.
05-026-03	Director of Labor	Joshua Generation Int'l Academy
01-025-03	Director of Labor	Li Heng Ltd.
SA 06-037	Aleta, Danilo Jr.	Lincoln Delos Santos
06-066-05	Director of Labor	Long Teng Development Corp.
07-267	Antalan, Edwardo B.	Maria E. Pelisamen
08-024	Zou, Wei	Mei Li Saipan, Inc.
07-279	Zhao, Chun Xiu	Neo Fashion, Inc. and Marianas Ins. Co., Ltd.
01-060-04	Director of Labor	NET Corporation
05-166	Jiang, Lirong	New Echo Ent. Corp.
07-128	Pangan, Fe V.	New Three Diamond Co., Ltd.
06-140-10	Director of Labor	Pacific Utility & Comm., Inc.
08-005-01	Director of Labor	Pelisamen, Maria E.
07-084-08	Director of Labor	Pelisamen, Maria E. and De Luna, Raymond DLC
07-084-08	Director of Labor.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC
06-230	Xia, Li Ying	Rifu Apparel Corporation
07-195	Dumdumaya, Salve M.R.	Roy Jen Enterprises
07-073-05	Director of Labor	Seki, Wen Mei and Henry
07-168	Wang, Ju	Sheng Rong Development Corp.
07-169	Zhang, Xiuyun	Sheng Rong Development Corp.
05-216	Lua, Vivian E.	Sheu's Brothers Holding Co., Ltd.
08-039	Liu, Dong Fan	Smart Guy Company, Ltd.
05-240	Qian, Meiling	Song Yong Jun Dba Banana Karaoke Bar
06-251	Concillado, M. Elvie	Top Fashion Corp.
04-016-03	Director of Labor	Tudela, Victoria T.
04-605	Zhou, Hailan	United International Corp.
05-148	Chen, Jinkun	United International Corp.
04-410	Ye, Jiamin	United International Corp.
04-607	Li, Baofang	United International Corp.
06-106	Xu, Yuan Mei	United International Corp.
06-103-08	Director of Labor	White House Corporation dba Moon Night Club
07-280	Llagas, Jerry M.	Willie L. Brundidge Jr. d.b.a. Mozell's Boys Lawn and Trash Service
06-003-01	Director of Labor	Winners Corporation
08-131-04	Director of Labor	World Apparel, Inc.
08-131-04	Director of Labor	World Apparel, Inc.
07-241	Wei, Yanlin	World Apparel, Inc.
07-363	Song, Liwei	World Apparel, Inc.
08-131-04	Director of Labor	World Apparel, Inc.
07-101	Gu, Jianhua	Yong Cheng Corporation
07-264	Zhuang, Xuezan	Yong Cheng Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CJPA - CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY
Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center

Public Service Announcement - Availability of Federal Funds

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) is announcing the availability of federal funds from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). These Grant Programs includes the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG); Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT); Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP); Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA) which are programs of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and a Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant program under the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).

A brief description and amounts available for each program are listed below, less planning and administrative costs stipulated under each programs and are allotted to CJPA as the Designated State Administering Agency (DSAA) for these programs in the CNMI.

I. Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant: FY2008 $335,945.00.
Proposed as a mechanism to streamline justice funding and grant administration, the JAG Program allows states, tribes, and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own local needs and conditions. JAG replaces the previous Byrne Formula and Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) Programs with a single funding mechanism to provide agencies with the flexibility to prioritize and place justice funds where they are needed most, and simplifies the administration process for grantees. The JAG purpose areas are: Law Enforcement Programs, Prosecution and Court Programs, Prevention and Education Programs, Corrections and Community Corrections Programs, Drug Treatment Programs and Planning, Evaluation, Technology Improvement Programs, and Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation). Any law enforcement or justice initiative previously eligible for funding under Byrne or LLEBG is eligible for JAG funding.

Funds under this program may be used to support the hiring, training, and employing of additional law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel on a continuing basis. Furthermore, funds can be used to procure equipment, technology, and other material directly related to basic law enforcement functions, as well as establishing crime prevention programs involving cooperation between community residents and law enforcement personnel to control, detect, or investigate crime or to prosecute criminals.

II. Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Program: FY 2008: $32,585
The primary purpose of the RSAT program is to assist states and units of local government in developing and implementing residential substance abuse treatment programs within state and local correctional and detention facilities in which prisoners are incarcerated for a period of time sufficient to permit substance abuse treatment. Funds under this program may be used to implement residential substance abuse programs that provide individual and group treatment activities for offenders in residential facilities operated by state and local correctional agencies. The FY'08 grant proposes to use 7% for administration and 93% to fund direct services for the RSAT program. This program, which involves drug testing, calls for collaborative efforts among the Department of Corrections, Parole, Probation, and the Division of Mental Health and Social Services. The intended recipient of this program is the Department of Corrections.

III. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Program
The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Grants are made available by the Department of Justice to fund programs that address Youth Development, Juvenile Justice System Improvements, and Juvenile Delinquency Prevention. The purpose for this category is to provide pre-delinquent or "at-risk" youth and status offenders with activities which will help to develop in them a sense of participation and responsibility to the community as well as develop a sense of self-respect and self-worth. Such programs or projects may include community service, anti-drug abuse projects & activities, outward bound type projects, youth centers, outreach, survival education, counseling, and other activities which foster the above characteristics. Included in this category are programs and projects that promote participation in organized activities, better self- image and self-esteem, and programs that instill community involvement and a sense of belonging which recreational activities may be a significant part of the overall program.

1. Title II Formula Grant: FY 2006: $13,666.00. FY2008: $45,000.00
The OJJDP Title II grants are made available to specifically fund programs that address Youth Development, Juvenile Justice System Improvement, and Juvenile Delinquency Prevention. The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program have four core-requirements. They are: 1) Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders; 2) Sight and Sound Separation between juvenile and adult inmates; 3) Complete Jail Removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups and 4) The Disproportionate Minority Contact issue. Beyond these requirements, these funds can be used for services targeted at juvenile delinquency prevention through education, training, recreation and other rehabilitative services.

2. Title V Delinquency Prevention Program: FY2007 $23,821.00. FY2008: $11,494.00.
Established in the 1992 through the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974, the Title V grant program is made available to funds collaborative and community-based delinquency prevention efforts. The program integrates six (6) fundamental principles and they are: comprehensive and multidisciplinary approaches, research foundation for planning, community control and decision-making, leveraging of resources and systems, evaluation to monitor program progress and effectiveness, and a long-term perspective to form a strategic approach to reducing juvenile delinquency. Title V provides funding and a framework to enable communities to develop and implement comprehensive 3-year prevention/strategic plans that are designed to reduce risk factors associated with delinquency and decrease juvenile problem behavior.

3. Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG): FY2007 $50,348.00 and FY2008 $53,127.00.
The JABG grant program is authorized under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 2002 as amended. As envisioned by Congress, the goal of the JABG program is to reduce juvenile offending through supporting accountability-based programs that focus on offenders and state and local juvenile justice systems. The basic premise underlying the JABG program is that both the juvenile offender and the juvenile justice system must be held accountable. In implementing the program, OJJDP seeks to reduce juvenile offending through both offender-focused and system-focused activities that promote accountability. For the juvenile justice system, strengthening the system requires an increased capacity to develop youth competence, to efficiently track juveniles through the system, and to provide enhanced options such as restitution, community service, victim-offender mediation, and other restorative justice sanctions that reinforce the mutual obligations of an accountability-based juvenile justice system.

Pre-qualified agencies mentioned below, must submit a complete application of how available funds will be used, including an implementation plan of how goals and objectives will help meet the predicted outcomes of their respective programs in order to use their awards.

- Under the JABG FY 07, these agencies or categories are allotted the following amounts: ***DPS-JPU: $8,000.00; DYS-JPU: $8,000.00; DYS-JDU: $8,000.00; PDO: $8,000.00; OAG: $8,000.00; FCD-Pre-Trial: $5,348.00; YAC-JJTF: $5,000.00.***
- Under the JABG FY 08, these agencies or categories are allotted the following amounts: ***DPS-JPU: $9,000.00; DYS-JPU: $9,000.00; DYS-JDU: $8,127.00; PDO: $9,000.00; OAG: $9.000.00; FCD-Pre-Trial: $9,000.00.***

4. Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Grant: FY2008 $332.500.00
Awarded to all territories including CNMI for FY 08, the OJJDP Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) grant program are funds made available to supports and enhances efforts by states and territories to prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors and the purchase and consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors. (Minors are defined as individuals under 21 years of age.) Pre-qualified agencies mentioned below, must submit a complete application of how available funds will be used, including an implementation plan of how goals and objectives will help meet the predicted outcomes of their respective programs in order to use their awards.

Under EUDL FY 08, these agencies or categories are allotted the following amounts:
Law Enforcement DPS-EUDL: $100,000.00; Prosecution OAG-EUDL: $50,000.00; YAC-JJTF: $47,500.00; The following amounts will be available to most qualified applicant(s) that will conduct and/or implement EUDL programs under these purpose areas: Innovative Programs: $95,000.00; Public Advertising: $40,000.00.

IV. Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Assistance Formula Program: FY2008 $263,150
Established in 1984, the VOCA, Office for Victims of Crime oversee diverse programs that benefit victims of crime. The OVC through VOCA grant program provides funding to support state and territory victim assistance and compensation programs, which are the lifeline services that help victims to heal. Funds made available through VOCA assistance program supports trainings designed to educate criminal justice and allied professionals regarding the rights and needs of crime victims. Included in this category, funds under this program is designed to provide direct services to victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assaults, survivors of homicide and other crime victims.

V. Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Formula Grant Programs: FY2007 $558,808.20 and FY2008 $560,274.30
The Office on Violence Against Women, a component of the U.S. Department of Justice, provides national leadership in developing the nation's capacity to reduce violence against women through the implementation of the Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors (STOP), VAWA. Established by legislation, funds through VAWA formula grant, are made available to support effort in developing programs, policies, and practices aimed at ending domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in state, local, and tribal partnerships among police, prosecutors, victim advocates, health care providers, faith leaders, and others. STOP-VAWA grant programs provide assistance for victims through protection and services that they need to pursue safe and healthy lives, while simultaneously enabling communities to hold offenders accountable for their violence. In consistence with the STOP program requirements "CNMI Three Year Implementation Plan", STOP-VAWA grant funds are made available to support law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, and the Superior Court in the CNMI.

Pre-qualified agencies mentioned below, must submit a complete application of how available funds will be used, including an implementation plan of how goals, objectives and activities will help meet the predicted outcomes of their respective programs.

- Under the VAWA FY 07, these categories and agencies are allotted the following amounts: ***30% Victim Services: $167,642.46; 30%; Prosecution, Office of Attorney General: $167,642.46; 25% Law Enforcement, DPS: $139,702.05; 5% Superior Courts: $27,940.41; 10% Discretionary: $55,880.82***
- Under the VAWA FY 08, these categories and agencies are allotted the following amounts: ***30% Non-profit Organizations: $168,082.29; 30% Prosecution, Office of Attorney General: $168,082.29; 25% Law Enforcement, DPS: $140,068.57; 5% Superior Courts: $28,013.72; 10% Discretionary: $56,027.43***

The available funds will be awarded by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System (CJPA Supervisory Council) through a sub-grant review process and plan consistent with the project description outlined in the program applications and accompanying strategies for the aforementioned DOJ programs. Sub-grant applicants under OJJDP funds will be awarded by the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) with the concurrence-approval of the Supervisory Council. Projects funded under these programs will be monitored and administered by the Criminal Justice Planning Agency. The Youth Advisory Council and the Supervisory Council are expected to meet early November 2008 and will be announced.

All applications must be submitted to CJPA no later than 4:30 p.m. October 24, 2008.

For Tinian and Rota Applications Only:
Complete and full applications submitted from Rota and Tinian will be accepted by fax following the deadline said above, including a "must" be submitted hardcopy via air waybill with the deadline said above stamped or recorded on the "executed on date and time" section of the air waybill. Incomplete application(s) send in by fax will not be accepted.

For more information and for interested applicants, please contact the CJPA at 664-4550/4551/4553/4554/4556 or stop by the Office on Capitol Hill (House #1314 or #1315) Also, the application format is available through the CJPA Web Site at www.cjpa.gov.mp for use. Please indicate and specify which grant and year you are applying for on the application. If necessary, please call Mr. Jerome Ierome, Executive Director at 664-4550.

/s/ Hon. Miguel S. Demapan
Chairman, Supervisory Council

/s/ Mr. Jerome Ierome
Executive Director, CJPA

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Where's the CNMI budget?

Back at the start of this month, the *Saipan Tribune* came out with an editorial urging the Legislature to pass the budget. Here we are, just two days before the end of the current fiscal year and we still have yet to see a shadow, a hint, or even just a smidgen of suggestion of a budget.

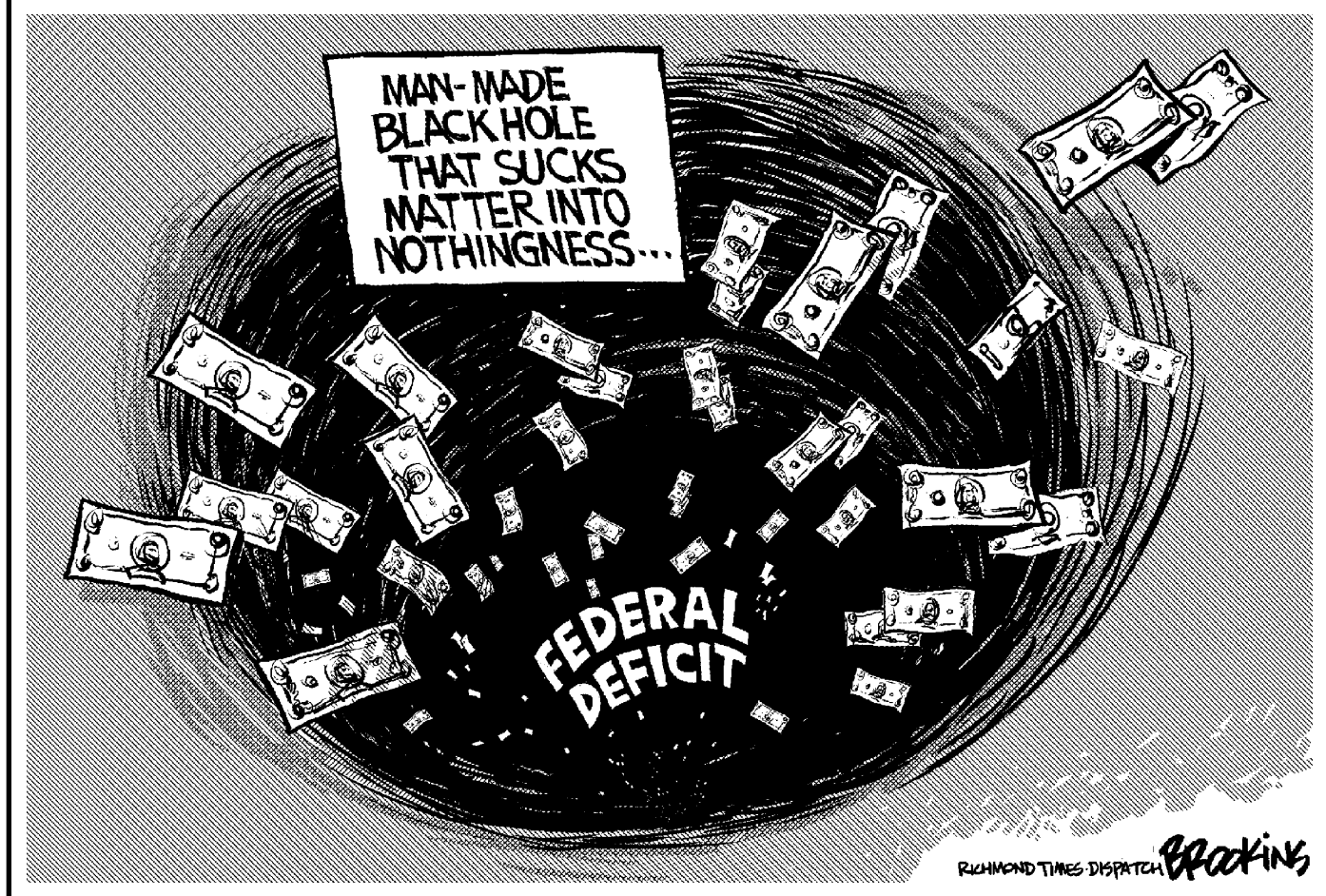
If the U.S. House and Senate can prepare a $700 billion bailout of financial institutions with as far reaching as those efforts have to be, they do it—in 10 days—why can't the CNMI government, specifically the Legislature, pass a budget? This is a responsibility of the elected Legislature.

The last piece of good news we had on this front was when the House of Representatives adopted a budget resolution to cap government spending at $156.7 million for the 2009 fiscal year. Since then, there has been nothing but deafening silence. Where is the fiscal responsibility? The moral obligation? Or even just plain simple shame at failing to come up with what taxpayers are paying lawmakers a handsome salary to do? Members of the Legislature get a minimum of $39,000 per annum as basic salary. On top of that, they get discretionary funding, travel allowances, and other monetary perks associated with the job—a lot of it unauditable. Yet for that amount, we can't even have something as basic as a national budget for the fiscal year?

This, in fact, is still another reason why the state of the CNMI is in such shambles right now. For the last 10 years, the Commonwealth government has passed only two budgets: in 2003 and in 2006. That's two budgets in a decade! In between, the government has been operating on continuing resolution, using the last passed budget as the de facto spending plan for eight fiscal years. That only works, however, if the economy is growing or, at the very least, in stasis. If the economy is on the upswing, you will always end up with a surplus; if it has plateaued, at least you will have the same revenue as the previous years. Those have not been the case.

Since 1998, the CNMI economy has been going through a rollercoaster ride of ups and downs; lately it has mostly just gone down. The garment industry is already on its deathbed, the tourism sector has yet to return to the halcyon days of the late '80s, and a lot of businesses have closed up shop due to either the stagnant economy or the stratospheric power rates. That means revenue projections in the 2006 budget plan are already way outdated, with most sources of revenue having already fled these islands. Yet because of the continuing failure of the Legislature to pass a new budget each fiscal year, the Commonwealth government is still operating on the assumption that everything is still A-okay. It's as if the prospect of facing reality is so appalling that everyone made a collective decision to just bury their heads in the sand in the hope that the problem will fix itself. That technique has never worked for the ostrich and neither will it work for us.

At the risk of sounding like the clichéd broken record, we must emphasize the need for the Legislature to get moving and pass a workable budget as soon as possible. A budget sets the course for the entire year. A government, or any entity for that matter, cannot plan ahead and manage its finances wisely if it does not have a budget plan for the year, and spending money willy-nilly without knowing if one has enough for the entire year is a surefire way to set oneself up for financial disaster. The CNMI is already in deep dodo; let's not make the hole get any deeper.



Some random thoughts on culture

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

We are at a turning point in our culture. As we are pushed and pulled into the larger arena of ties with the United States, it is vital we approach the concept of "culture" with an unbiased and open mind. Many fear that our "culture" will be lost. Many claim we have already lost it and have replaced it with a hybrid. It is time to define exactly what our culture. Is it helping or hindering us in our time of need?

Living on Saipan, we are bombarded by various cultures brought here by various peoples who come to work and live. However no one has defined the culture we fear losing. So let's discuss it a bit in the hope that it will open up a dialogue for better understanding.

Over the past years we have invited foreigners to visit us as tourists. This type of activity doesn't affect our "culture" very much because we know that in a few days they will leave. We try to be polite extending our hospitality and show them our "culture" in the hope they will be impressed.

Also over the past years we have invited foreigners to work for us. This type of activity has affected our culture very much because they tend to remain for long periods. In fact, they have remained and even intermarried with our citizens thereby fostering their culture on our own. In addition, we also invite foreigners to invest in our islands and to reap economic benefits at our expense. This group of foreigners also has a lasting impact on our culture.

But the most serious impact continues to come from the United States. We requested becoming citizens and continue to accept huge sums of money from it. Yet we worry about the U.S.'s impact on us. But the irony of all this worry is that we scramble to send our children to schools in the U.S. Some of us even buy homes and go to either work or retire there. We eagerly buy products from the U.S. But at the same time we wish to reject its values and culture.

In a book by Thomas Sowell entitled *Race and Culture*, he explains that "real culture" such as "music and art" comes only after prosperity and leisure time sets in. But it is another facet of culture that we sometimes overlook which make a major impact on any country. To quote: "the focus here will be primarily on those aspects of culture which provide the material requirements of life itself—the specific skill, general work habits, saving propensities, and attitudes towards education and entrepreneurship—in short what economists call "human capital." This one point—human capital—when fully understood determines how and when the CNMI will become economically strong again.

How does our "human capital culture" influence the economy? Have we defined it into writing thereby showing our specific skills, our general work habits, our saving of money and resource habits, and our attitudes towards education and entrepreneurship? How do we compare to other peoples?

Some people believe that technology is the sole determinant of economic progress. One only has to look at all the rusting machinery and decaying Western factories given to third world countries along with massive international aid programs. Mr. Sowell explains: "They are a monument to the fallacy of believing that technology transfer is simple a matter of access, rather than a cultural receptivity as well….Differences of work habits, savings propensities, organizational skills, personal hygiene, attitudes, and self-discipline all influence end results, both economic and social."

We have a commonality with Malaysia, Fiji, and India and many African countries in that most of their college graduates aspire to work for the government. This seems the same in the CNMI in that most people want to work for the government. Mr. Sowell explains: "Government employment remains a prime objective and a prime source of inter-group conflict in underdeveloped countries around the world….Formal education, especially among peoples for whom it is rare or recent, often creates feelings of entitlement to rewards and exemption from many kinds of work."

We see every day how some foreigners come to our islands and begin at a lower socioeconomic level than many of us and eventually rise above us due to their skills, work habits, or other economic performance differences. I am thinking of one of the most successful families whose father was a poor immigrant to Guam many years ago. But through tremendous efforts, he has emerged as a highly successful and wealthy man whose family dominates our landscape on Saipan. But I also think of another local man who through great efforts also became one of the most successful men on Saipan whose name all of us know.

See SOME on Page 13

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Making the islands totally energy-independent

Let it be understood. I have no "under the table" financial interest in coming up with a solution to the island's electrical power problems, other than being able to afford my electric bill. I also have lived by the knowledge "that if it sounds to good to be true...then it must not be true." That being said…

I am a licensed engineer who has the ability and experience in designing industrial projects dealing in the energy market. I have "walked the talk," meaning that I can design what I put before you and it will work. I have looked deeply into all the known possible approaches to making islands energy independent and at this time in man's history there really is only one approach that offers total *renewable* (free fuel), *environmentally safe* (no toxic waste), *base load* (24/7 electrical power) and *drinking water*. Sound too good to be true? I will let you decide, but this knowledge has been known for over 100 years. It has only been in the past 30 years that economical approaches have been presented and tested. There has been only one problem, though. It appears that many people think it is *only* available to tropical islands and not the "masses in the USA" and thus is not deemed useful and funding, by the DOE, of it dropped. It is called OTEC (ocean thermal energy conversion) Just Google "Mist Lift OTEC" and you can learn more about it. There are many pros on it and some cons. There also have been no commercial plants built either. The reason is because with many of the approaches it was too expensive for small islands. But…just as the DOE stopped considering it back in the early 80s, there came along an idea that was tested and proved to work that greatly reduced such costs. Mist Lift OTEC is that idea. Here are its advantages over the other approaches (this may be a little over some peoples heads and I'm sorry but that doesn't make it a bad approach) To put it as simply as possible, Mist Lift OTEC is simply creating a "waterfall" in the ocean that can fall through a typical hydroelectric generator, then back into the ocean. Stuart L. Ridgway, PhD (nuclear physicist, Princeton University, 1952) put a lot of his time in coming up with this approach.

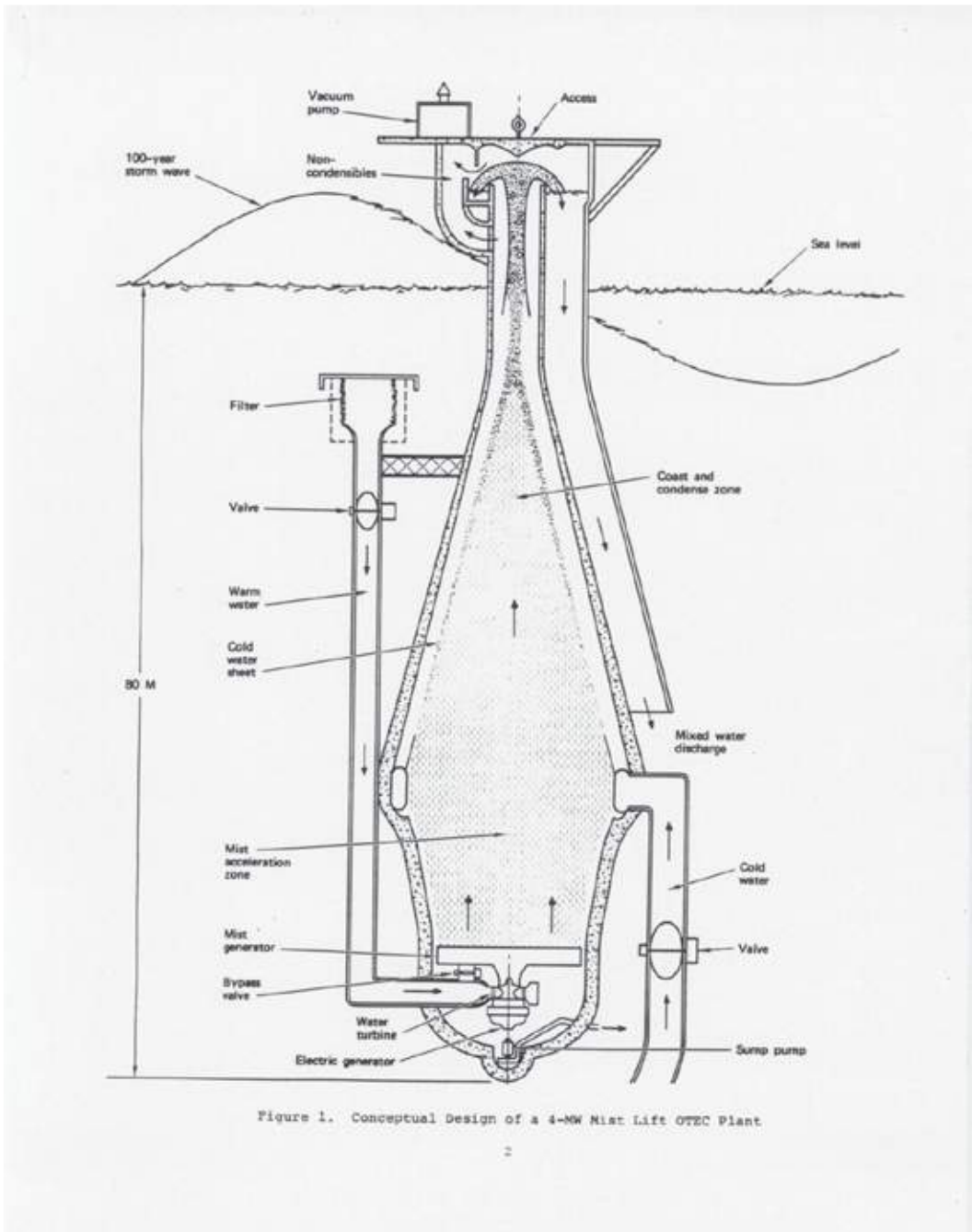


Figure 1. Conceptual Design of a 4-MW Mist Lift OTEC Plant

•No huge heat exchanger (This can run as high as 40 percent of the cost of OTEC plant). Let's move that cost over to the "hull" costs and installation of mist lift, since closed cycle approach also will need a way of floating this huge heat exchanger, too. So why not just get rid of it? This can free up engineers for the hull or offshore platform and cold water supply... Either way this has to be done ... saving money.

•No need for warm or cold water pumps

Since Mist Lift momentum transfers from the mist to the cold water, this will supply the kinetic energy needed to carry the deep cold water to the barometric level. This level will be several meters above sea level. Thus a waterfall in the ocean! No pumps needed! This concept is so natural and simple that it seems to have eluded the academia for more than 30 years. Could pride and arrogance be the fault? I want to make a point here: The mist lift is stable and that was proved by Ridgway. A larger test will also prove this, saving money.

■ **It uses conventional hydro turbine generator.** Nothing new has to be designed or developed. It is already manufactured and tested!

■ **Mist lift requires less cold water to be brought up from the ocean**. This is the most risky area to all OTEC approaches, but just on the fact that the deep water pipe will be smaller than the other approaches.

■ **It's efficiency is much greater than any of the other approaches.** Meaning that is will produce more net energy!

■ **It requires little expertise to operate and needs minimal maintenance.** This is important. Not wanting to insult anyone but if we are going to present the OTEC approach to small islands or underdeveloped countries, the process has to be simple and with few moving parts. Manpower is not cheap and experienced manpower even costs more.

■ **It's simple.** Create a "waterfall" in the ocean that can "fall" through a hydroelectric generator then back to the ocean.

So, if anyone can present another approach that gives the same benefits and that will make the islands' energy independent, put it before the people with facts! I have an open mind and am also looking at the remote nuclear "battery" idea even if it does not give all the benefits of OTEC. These two approaches will give power well below what it is costing us now. But the "geothermal" approach (which I also have an understanding of) has a lot more problems and costs than either OTEC or nuclear.

Brian Horst PE
Papago

Abolishing Article 12?

With all due respect to Mr. Ricky Delgado's letter that called for abolishing Article 12, I would like to explain that I understand his point of view. He has invested millions of dollars in a first-class telecommunications company. Ricky is a brilliant businessman who possesses a lot of knowledge and experience in global business. I'd also like to add that I know Ricky means well. More than anything, I appreciate his willingness to speak out on controversial issues, something that seems quite uncommon among many CNMI business and political leaders.

Having said all that, I respectfully disagree with his assertion that Article 12 is making us all "poorer by the day." I would like to point out that CNMI land prices soared a couple of decades ago, and we watched dozens of landowners become instant millionaires. Investors were fully aware of Article 12, yet they came in droves and dropped millions in land leases here in our islands.

Those days are long behind us now. Is it really Article 12 that chased away all our investors, or could it be a government that betrayed their trust through a series of bad decisions? An unstable, unreliable, and corrupt environment is not attractive to any investor, regardless of Article 12. And when corruption and nepotism seem to be the rule of thumb on how we get things done, Article 12 means little to investors.

From what I have studied, it seems that the intent of Article 12 was so that the indigenous people of the CNMI would not become a minority in their own land. As Tina Sablan stated in her *MP* article entitled "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Property in the Northern Mariana Islands," "The [Covenant] negotiators believed that with no protections in place, the people of the Northern Marianas would eventually find themselves landless, impoverished, culturally alienated, and politically powerless in their own islands."

It is important to note that land alienation laws exist throughout the world in various countries, including the Philippines. Last I checked, only Filipino citizens and corporations (at least 60 percent Philippine-owned) are entitled to acquire land in the Philippines. Aren't foreign investors still investing in the Philippines?

In reference to our brothers and sisters in Guam, Ricky stated that "while we are having a hard time paying for gas, they are driving around in new Lexus and BMWs, all fruits of the real estate boom Guam is experiencing today." The truth is, those who sold their land may have bought a Lexus and a BMW, but those cars will eventually break down and rust away. What will the children of these former landowners inherit? An old, rusty BMW in place of property?

Take a good look at our community. Do you really feel that transforming our community into a Singapore is a sign of progress? Is renting and living in apartments and high-rise buildings a sign of progress? Is it ideal to have land value skyrocket to the point that most local families can no longer afford to buy property? The fact is, our median family income here in the CNMI is $30,000 lower than families living in the U.S. mainland. If we abolish Article 12 and land value triples within a few years, what will happen to local families who want to purchase land? Will they be able to buy property, or will they be priced out of the market? These are my general concerns on abolishing Article 12.

Although I cannot own land here in the CNMI, I still believe in the intent of Article 12. And so do my parents, who have lived here for 34 years and have built a home in Susupe and leased property near Mt. Tapochau, regardless of Article 12. Sure, to some extent, I would like to see Article 12 amended as my heart goes out to those who were born here, or those who through inter-cultural marriages will eventually have less than 25 percent bloodline, or those who have lived here for many years and consider this home. But the truth is, that is not up to me to decide. It is up to the indigenous people to decide on this particular matter. Article 12 is constitutionally protected, and it was put in place for a reason, and I feel it must be respected. If it is to be amended or one day abolished, there must be a great deal of forums, discussions, and debates on this very controversial issue. I do believe in equality and fairness, but I respect the laws of the land. And the law of this land is Article 12.

In this broken economy, we often react quickly and hastily in our decision-making, looking for quick-fix solutions. But I firmly believe that abolishing Article 12 is not the solution to restoring our economy. Building our economy requires that we create an environment that is investor-friendly, and that certainly includes offering RELIABLE and AFFORDABLE power and water. Investors also crave stability and trust. There can be no stability as long as we continue to sue the federal government, and there can be no trust as long as we continue to put the love of money in place of doing what is right. In any relationship, business or personal, we must have trust.

I know this letter will upset some people, but as always, I speak from the heart. Just as I respectfully disagree with Ricky's views on Article 12, you may read this and disagree with me. Let us disagree and debate any and all issues, but let us agree on core principles that deal with honesty, integrity, compassion, and humility. If we can do that, I am certain, regardless of whether or not we abolish Article 12, we will see the CNMI's economy thrive once again. I will bet a case of Spam on that.

Ed Propst
Dandan

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

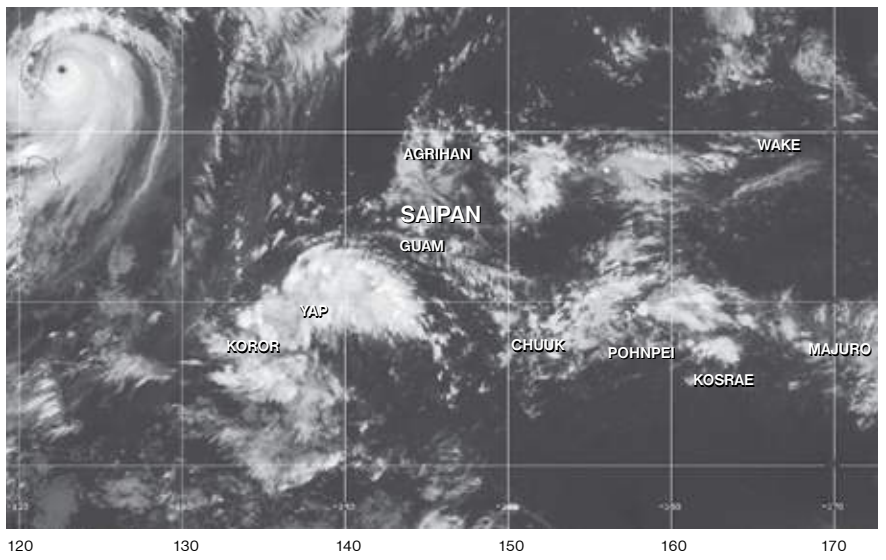
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼71
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼72

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲62	▼50
Beijing	Sunny	▲80	▼56
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲90	▼73
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼73
London	Cloudy	▲61	▼52
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲84	▼62
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲60	▼45
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼76
New York	Partly Sunny	▲74	▼59
Osaka	Cloudy	▲71	▼61
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲67	▼48
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲73	▼64
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼56
Salem	Sunny	▲89	▼51
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼58
Seoul	Sunny	▲75	▼54
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲73	▼59
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼62

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:30PM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A developing tropical disturbance is centered just south of Yap near 9N139E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the disturbance and with troughs and convergence tying into it are occurring between the equator and 13N from about 133E to 141E and within 100 miles of 11N from 141E to about 144E. This area includes Yap and Palau. An upper-level trough extends northeastward from west of Guam near 13N141E through an upper low centered east of Saipan at about 15N151E to another upper low centered northwest of Wake Island at 26N163E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near the trough axis north of Saipan, Tinian and eastward to west of Wake Island between 15N and 20N from 144E to 160E. The ITCZ is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of Chuuk, north of Pohnpei and Kwajalein, north of Kosrae and around Majuro within about 120 miles of a line from 8N155E to 9N166E and eastward within 175 miles of a line from 6N168E to 5N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:32AM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
7:23AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
1:43PM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
7:34PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07AM	6:08 PM
Tuesday	6:07AM	6:07 PM
Wednesday	6:07AM	6:06 PM
Thursday	6:07AM	6:06 PM
Friday	6:07AM	6:05 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:43AM	5:53PM
Tuesday	6:33AM	6:31PM
Wednesday	7:24AM	7:10PM
Thursday	8:16AM	7:51PM
Friday	9:08AM	8:35PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Shanghai

FM 844	3:15am	5:55am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Shanghai-Saipan

FM 843	7:50pm	2:15am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Letters to the Editor

Pugua anyone?

I apologize politely to you Mr. Philip Leyland for not being straight forward on some matters pertaining to betel nut as a great cultural element of the indigenous community. I didn't point out the essence of sanitation and etiquette of betel nut chewing—being considerate of our surroundings which are the non-chewers, and about the beauty of our environment.

The governor should emphasize on education for the betel nut chewers to be conscious of sanitation. To be responsible betel nut chewers just like being responsible drinkers of imported beers. Betel nut is so indigenous in nature. It is not an invasive substance. I am urging all betel nut chewers—locals and others to use spittoon cans or cups. Please do not spit into trash cans in the offices, on the ground, and on walls. And also to observe strong oral hygiene—visiting your dentist every now and then. Do not spit just anywhere especially if there are Americans around or tourists. To many Americans, it looks like blood! And it's not even Halloween yet, you know.

But to insist that betel nut be eradicated from our culture, I am telling you it will be impossible. A war over pugua will be declared, and I as a colonel in the cultural battalion, I will fire the first spear gun to protect the sovereignty of our culture! And I know for certain I have the blessing of cultural soldiers made up of privates, sergeants, and most especially the blessing of the cultural battalions of generals! We once outsmarted Magellan. Oops, we took back from him what was rightfully ours!

We honestly welcome all people to make our islands their home. They will have missed the Beverly Hills style of their original home but they shouldn't forget that people differ and that if they can't be with the one they love, they should love the one they're with.

With respect to the greetings of hafa adai, I checked on my license to use it as specified in my certificate of live birth and it is indicated to behold a non-expiration date. It also authorizes me to use it in the manner most useful to the preservation of our indigenous culture.

Thank you very much Mr. Philip Leyland. May your stay in the CNMI remind you that you are in a different seashore. And welcome to the CNMI too, gentleman!

A warm pugua hafa adai,

Alexandro "The Colonel" Sablan
Dandan

Income vs capital gains

Would you like $500-$1000 a month tax free for the rest of your life? Would you like to pass that same money to your children when you die? That is the return on the value of your home and land if you own it free and clear. To clarify, that money is money you do not have to pay to rent someone else's house to live in. while that is not income or money your can pay a bill with, it is a form of compensation to you that home/land ownership provides. If you have fruit trees, pugua trees, or other food products for your own or family use, that is more tax free compensation from your home and land.

Every couple of months or so someone writes a letter to the editor expounding the benefits of repealing article 12 of the Constitution, i.e., land ownership in the CNMI. The culprit this time was our respected business leader Mr. Ricky Delgado in his letter to the editor (*Tribune* 9/25/08). While I really do not take issue with what he has to say, I do feel a few terms he used in his letter need clarification.

First, the sale of your own real estate is not income, it is a capital sign (or loss). A one time deal. Yes there are people in Guam driving their new Lexus or BMWs purchased from the capital gained realized from the sale of their real estate. Ten years from now there is a good possibility their 10-year-old cars will be rusted out from the salt air and they will have neither cars nor real estate. And there is most likely a capital gains tax due.

Second, money you receive from renting your available real estate (not your primary residence) is income. As are wages from employment. This is also referred to as the return on your investment, your real estate. So for 10 years you collect rents, you still own the property and you could have the new cars. This is one of the major reasons people want to own a real estate, to receive income from their property investment most of the time is better to be the landlord instead of the tenant. Of course there will be GRT and income due each year.

But most businesses lease their business facilities. There are a number of good reasons. First, usually there is not a facility to buy where the business wants to locate. Someone already owns all the good locations. Second, there is a significant additional risk if the business buys the business facility. Of note, the collapse of the U.S. real estate market in recent months. Third, money. Every dollar used to buy the facility cannot be used to purchase inventory or to provide the necessary operations capital until revenues are sufficient for continued operations. The lack of sufficient operating capital is the major cause of most business failures. If businesses are not coming to the CNMI it is because of the outrageous electricity rates, government blunderings such as the recent Rota Resort fiasco, forever changing labor laws, good old boy lawmakers and the list goes on. The repeal of article 12 changes none of these deficiencies.

Article 12 of the CNMI constitution is a "God Send" to those of Marianas decent. When the time comes to vote yea or nay on the repeal of article 14, ask yourself, do you want your children to be the landlords or the tenants in their homelands?

Brad Doerr
San Roque

Where is freedom?

I wonder if somewhere in our contract has a hidden provision that bars us, guest workers, from exercising the freedom of speech during our stay here. Because the CNMI is a democratic nation, one could only assume that freedom of speech is intrinsic. That means anyone can give their opinion or comment about an issue as long as what they say represent the truth and is not meant to maliciously destroy or hurt other people. But then again, perhaps I am wrong in my assumption.

For a long time, I have tried to deal with the emotional and psychological stress that I constantly get from listening to people who would call me to challenge my opinion, question the cause of the guest workers or worse, simply to tell me to keep my mouth shut or else. There are times when they would just call because something is written in the papers against the guest workers and they want to make sure that I read the article. Normally, those calls would come with a litany of how disrespectful the guest workers are for asking improved status.

A normal week would not pass by without getting least a few of those calls. It seems to me that what they are trying to do is intimidate me so I won't say anything anymore or if not, they want to make me feel that I need to explain to them why I say or do something. For one thing, I noticed that all the callers are not even bold enough to give their telephone or cell phone numbers or much more, to give their names. They also call at their whims—early in the morning, late in the evening, during office, weekdays, and weekends. They call me at my house, my work and my cell phone. And so I ask. Where is freedom? Where is democracy? Where is respect? Or do I even have the right to ask these questions? Perhaps I should have learned by now that I could not expect to get any respect because I am only a guest worker. What is more sad is when I get this kind of bullying from a fellow Filipino or someone who claims to be one.

If these people who hate the guest workers cannot respect us as guest workers, can they at least respect us as human beings? After all, I'm sure love and respect are taught at their homes and most likely, in their churches.

I know this is your island and we are just guest workers here but that doesn't mean you own us. I don't think I can convince you to change your heart but I get comfort from knowing that someone more powerful is watching and will bless those who honor his first commandment which is "love thy neighbor".

Irene N. Tantiado
United Workers Movement, NMI president

Support Tinian, Rota casino industry

First I want to congratulate commissioners Ike K. Quichocho and Mike H. San Nicolas on their recent confirmation to the Tinian casino gaming control commission. Unquestionably these two gentlemen are highly qualified to serve as commissioners, and they can only add to the strength of the three veteran commissioners under the leadership of the honorable chairman Francisco M. Borja, in order to revitalize Tinian's economy. Tinian, like Rota now has a fully functioning gaming Commission as envisioned and voted for by the people of each senatorial district.

The honorable Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas continues to impress me with his business acumen. Mayor San Nicolas must be commended for his vision for Tinian's economic future and his commitment to obey the laws of the CNMI to fill the vacant positions as mandated by the Revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act of 1989. I have no doubt that Mayor San Nicolas has already taken into consideration the cost of the new commissioners, but more importantly, I have no doubt that Mayor San Nicolas has already calculated he benefits of a fully functioning gaming commission, and that the benefits for the people of Tinian and the CNMI far outweigh the additional cost to fund the new commissioners' salaries. In short, we need to spend money in order to make more money.

I believe that the elected leaders and the people of Tinian and Rota must be commended for their vision and understanding of the importance of a fully functioning gaming commission. Just as the 12th Rota Municipal Council did, the 12th Tinian Municipal Council diligently, and pursuant to law, investigated the mayor's appointments, solicited public comments, and deliberated seriously and responsibly. As the president of the Association of Northern Mariana Islands Municipal Councils, I commend the Municipal Councils for a job well done!

Second, it is no longer a secret that Tinian and Rota's casino industry is a CNMI industry. Therefore, we, the people of the CNMI, should support the casino industry on Tinian and Rota, because when Tinian and Rota make money, the CNMI makes more. Let us have a united Commonwealth, and spread love, joy, peace, and friendship throughout our beautiful islands, so that we and our guests and visitors may live in harmony.

Felipe Q. Atalig
Saipan

SOME

From Page 10

Thus since foreigners can succeed, so can we locals.

Almost daily I hear about our young educated minds leaving the islands because they cannot find a job. Just the other day I was speaking to a young man who confided in me that it took him over six months to find a job. My question is why are we allowing this to happen? Why aren't we making an effort to retain them? The few that remain are forced to seek employment in government. What is wrong with our system or worse with our thinking to let this happen?

Could one of the reasons that these young people are leaving or refusing to come back is that our islands have little to offer them after spending four years in a modern college in or near an exciting city with many attractions? Could it be that they do not wish to continue the customs as practiced by their ancestors? Could it be that they sense a feeling of sterility here with little hope for advancement?

All the talk about our culture being lost is our fault. We continue to believe that this is our land and outsiders are destroying our culture. But what we forget is that daily we must work to maintain our position and that can only be done through cultivating our "human capital." However we have been lulled into the belief that because "this is our land," we should have entitlement rights.

Mr. Sowell writes a stinging commentary that I feel fits us so well and has caused us most of the dilemma that we find ourselves in. "Indigenous political leaders, well aware of such counterproductive economic consequences of their pressures against middlemen, nevertheless have every incentive to push such policies, which reap immediate political gains, whatever their long-run economic damage to the community or the nation." For "middlemen" I substitute the word "local workforce." In other words we have been duped into accepting low wage workers at the expense of motivating and training our local people into developing our "human capital culture."

By no means am I trying to suggest what our culture beliefs should be. Nor am I trying to suggest that our culture is not as good as others. But I am suggesting that no matter what we think of ourselves and loudly proclaim ourselves to be, we will never become economically strong until we fully develop our "human capital culture." When we have almost 22,000 guest workers and thousands of local people out of work, have we really developed our "human capital?"

We will always remain dominated by someone else as we have been since the Spaniards landed here. For years we have been passed around from country to country. But for once, with the help of the United States, we can become almost self-sufficient and proud again. As the Bible tells us: "With all thy Wisdom, get understanding." When will we?

Business

Tainted milk crisis hits more global companies

SHANGHAI, China (AP)—Snackers, beware: Your favorite chocolate or creamy treats might contain milk contaminated with melamine.

The list of companies facing potential recalls grew Friday as reports of foods tainted with the industrial chemical melamine, which has been blamed in the deaths of four Chinese infants, spread to a widening range of products.

Food companies around the globe are rushing to assess their products and in some cases setting new strategies to prevent problems.

"We have to think about any processed food with milk or protein in it," said James Rice, a food industry veteran who is now China country manager for Tyson Foods Inc., the world's largest meat processor.

While his company is not affected, for others "that includes biscuits, cake mix, energy bars, anything that should have protein in it," he said.

Many food companies already were taking special precautions before Chinese milk suppliers were found to be adding melamine to watered-down milk to boost its apparent protein content. The chemical, which is high in nitrogen, can fool tests aimed at verifying protein levels. The compromised dairy products are blamed for sickening 54,000 children.

Some companies learned the need for extra diligence in China the hard way, during a spate of scandals last year from unsafe foods and toothpaste to melamine-laced ingredients in pet food.

But many continued to disregard the risks, said Jeremy Haft, a businessman who runs factories in China in a variety of industries, including medical products, clothing and building supplies.

"I don't think much was learned from the recalls of a year ago," said Haft, who has written of his experiences in a book, "All the Tea in China."

Tokyo-headquartered Lotte Group, a major snack maker, got caught up in the storm Friday after its popular chocolate-filled Koala cookies were recalled in Hong Kong and Macau because of melamine contamination.

Packages of the cookies, still on sale in Shanghai, list whole milk powder as an ingredient.

"We will look deeply into all the details of the manufacturing process," said Kayh Kim, manager of Lotte China Food's planning department in Beijing. "We really don't want to lose our customers' confidence."

In Tokyo, a company spokeswoman said Lotte products sold in Japan are not made with Chinese dairy ingredients.

AP

A Philippine police officer carries packs of White Rabbit candies as it was ordered withdrawn aside from other Chinese-made dairy products from the shelves of a grocery in Manila, Philippines in this Thursday Sept. 25, 2008 file photo.

What $700B won't buy: a quick fix for the economy

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Not even $700 billion will be enough to spare the United States from more economic anguish if the government's proposed banking bailout pans out like similar desperation moves during the past two decades.

It usually takes years to recover from a financial crisis severe enough for politicians to ride to the rescue with truckloads of taxpayer money.

Take, for example, the U.S. government's August 1989 bailout of the savings-and-loan industry. The stock market fell by 12 percent within the first 14 months of the rescue plan while the economy slipped into an eight-month recession that began in July 1990. Housing prices that had just begun to erode continued to fall for another three years.

There's little reason to believe it will be dramatically different this time around, particularly since this bailout involves harder-to-value assets and comes with the U.S. economy already on the edge of a recession, if one hasn't begun already.

"This is going to take years to work out and it will be incredibly complicated," predicted banking consultant Bert Ely, who has extensively studied the U.S. government's 1989 bailout.

Although lawmakers are still sparring over the precise details, the proposed bailout would authorize the government to borrow up to $700 billion to buy the toxic assets poisoning banks.

Most of these holdings are tied to mortgages made to borrowers who either can't afford to make their monthly payments or have simply chosen to default because they owe far more than their homes are worth. No one seems quite certain how much these assets are worth, but the government is betting that - with time - it can get a handle on it and eventually profit.

Even as the government tries to clean up the mess left by reckless home lenders, borrowers and investors, more problems are likely to stack up.

Crisis boosts urge to regulate in Europe

PARIS (AP)—In France, President Nicolas Sarkozy says the death knell has rung for free-wheeling, U.S.-style capitalism. German's finance minister calls it downright "dangerous." Even the leader of more Wall Street-friendly Britain says financiers need closer watching, maybe on a global scale.

What Europeans call, often with a hint of derision, the "Anglo-Saxon" model of capitalism - with less rules, less government and, for years, more growth - is now being called fatally flawed as the financial crisis strengthens advocates of tighter regulation of banks and financial markets in Europe.

It's a political shift that could recalibrate the economic direction of Europe as it braces and tries to survive the financial aftershocks from the earthquake that has rocked and destroyed financial institutions across the Atlantic.

The crisis has put new momentum behind measures to be unveiled by the European Commission on Oct. 1 that include plans to strengthen rules on the capital that banks must hold back and the way credit rating agencies are overseen. Other measures being pushed by some European leaders in response to the crisis include bans on short selling of securities and tighter controls on executive compensation. The European Parliament called this week for tighter controls on hedge funds and private equity investors, an idea so far rejected by top EU officials.

Sarkozy, initially quiet on the crisis, in now proving among the most outspoken critics of the bankers and lenders who led Wall Street to disaster. He says they must punished, at least financially.

Senate sends big spending bill to Bush to sign

WASHINGTON (AP)—Automakers gained $25 billion in taxpayer-subsidized loans and oil companies won elimination of a long-standing ban on drilling off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts as the Senate passed a sprawling spending bill Saturday.

The 78-12 vote sent the $634 billion measure to President Bush, who was expected to sign it even though it spends more money and contains more pet projects than he would have liked.

The measure is needed to keep the government operating beyond the current budget year, which ends Tuesday. As a result, the legislation is one of the few bills this election year that simply must pass. Bush's signature would mean Congress could avoid a lame-duck session after the Nov. 4 election.

White House spokesman Tony Fratto said the bill "stands as a reminder of the failure of the Democratic Congress to fund the government in regular order." But, he said, it "puts the United States one step closer to ending our dependence on foreign sources of energy" by lifting the offshore drilling ban and opening up huge reserves of oil shale in the West.

The Pentagon is in line for a record budget. In addition to $70 billion approved this summer for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Defense Department would receive $488 billion, a 6 percent increase. The spending bill also offers aid to victims of flooding in the Midwest and recent hurricanes across the Gulf Coast.

Such a huge bill usually would dominate the end-of-session agenda on Capitol Hill. But it went below the radar screen because attention focused on the congressional bailout of Wall Street.

AP

From left, Sens. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, John Barrasso, R-Wyo., Larry Craig, R-Idaho, and Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., arrive at a vote during a rare Saturday session as Congress continues to work Saturday, Sept., 27, 2008, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Nation

Congress, White House reach financial bailout deal

By CHARLES BABINGTON and ALAN FRAM
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congressional leaders and the Bush administration reached a tentative deal early Sunday on a landmark bailout of imperiled financial markets whose collapse could plunge the nation into a deep recession.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced the $700 billion accord just after midnight Saturday but said it still has to be put on paper.

"We've still got more to do to finalize it, but I think we're there," said Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, who also participated in the negotiations in the Capitol.

"We worked out everything," said Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., the chief Senate Republican in the talks. He said the House should be able to vote on it Sunday, and the Senate could take it up Monday.

The plan calls for the Treasury Department to buy deeply distressed mortgage-backed securities and other bad debts held by banks and other investors. The money should help troubled lenders make new loans and keep credit lines open. The government would later try to sell the discounted loan packages at the best possible price.

At the insistence of House Republicans, some money would be devoted to a program that would encourage holders of distressed mortgage-backed securities to keep them and buy government insurance to cover defaults.

The legislation would place limits on severance packages for executives of companies that benefit from the rescue plan, but details were sketchy.

Also, the government would receive stock warrants in return for the bailout relief, giving taxpayers a chance to share in financial companies' future profits.

To help struggling homeowners, the plan requires the government to try renegotiating the bad mortgages it acquires with the aim of lowering borrowers' monthly payments so they can keep their homes.

AP

Secretary of the Treasury Henry Paulson, left, and Kevin Fromer, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, arrive at the Capitol for a meeting in Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office regarding legislation on the financial crisis Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Obama slams McCain for not mentioning middle class

AMERICA VOTES

FREDERICKSBURG, Va. (AP)—Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama sought to score a quick post-debate advantage Saturday by traveling to two Republican-leaning states and accusing GOP rival John McCain of being out of touch with middle-class Americans.

"We talked about the economy for 40 minutes and not once did Sen. McCain talk about the struggles middle-class families are having," Obama told more than 26,000 people who stood out in the rain with him on the campus of the University of Mary Washington.

While Obama was out campaigning, McCain stayed in the Washington, D.C.-area monitoring by phone the congressional negotiations on a deal on stabilizing U.S. financial markets. Obama did the same while on the campaign trial, with aides saying he spoke by phone to Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., as negotiators inched toward a deal.

"Unlike Sen. McCain, it didn't take a crisis on Wall Street for me to realize that people are hurting," Obama said.

Obama returned to Washington Saturday night with his wife Michelle to accept an award from the Congressional Black Caucus at its annual legislative conference before taking off again Sunday for campaign stops in Michigan, a crucial battleground state.

Earlier in the day, Obama debuted his post-debate attack on McCain with a campaign swing through North Carolina, another traditionally Republican state like Virginia where Obama hopes to make inroads.

AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama D-Ill., listens as he is introduced by Democratic vice presidential candidate Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., at a rally at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Va. Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008.

Maine coast braces for rare tropical weather hit

EASTPORT, Maine (AP)—Forecasters issued a rare tropical storm warning and hurricane watch Saturday for parts of coastal Maine as Hurricane Kyle roared toward the region, threatening conditions similar to a New England nor'easter.

Authorities expect the state to see the worst late Sunday or early Monday, with wind gusts as high as 60 mph and waves of 15 to 20 feet, said Robert McAleer, Maine Emergency Management Agency director.

Authorities have advised Mainers living on coastal islands to evacuate if they depend on electricity for medical reasons, because ferry service will probably shut down Sunday, McAleer said. Significant power failures on the north coastal region of the state were also expected, he said.

"There's going to be some beach erosion. Our southern coastline is susceptible to beach erosion; the northern coastline is more rocky," he said.

He warned that coastal flooding could be a problem and said some hospitals in vulnerable areas had started sandbagging. Another major threat is small stream flooding, he said.

"We urge everyone to pay close attention to weather warnings and stay away from any flooded roadways or fast-running streams," he said.

It was Maine's first hurricane watch in 17 years, the National Weather Service said. Elsewhere in New England, a hurricane warning was posted for Nantucket Island off the coast of Massachusetts in September 1996, according to the Weather Service office in Taunton, Mass.

ACROSS THE NATION

Woman wakes up, should have smelled the coffee

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (AP)—It wasn't just the caffeine that gave an Iowa woman an extra jolt after she had her morning coffee. It was also the bat she found in the filter. The Iowa Department of Public Health says the woman reported a bat in her house but wasn't too worried about it. She turned on her automatic coffee maker before bedtime and drank her coffee the next morning. She discovered the bat in the filter when she went to clean it that night. The woman has undergone treatment for possible rabies. Health officials say that the bat was sent to a lab but that its brain was too cooked by the hot water to determine whether it had rabies.

18th-century viola left in cab returned to owner

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York City taxi driver has hit all the right notes by returning an 18th-century viola worth thousands of dollars to a passenger who left it in the back seat of his car. New Jersey Symphony violist Ann Roggen says she was heartbroken when she realized she had left her instrument in the cab. She says she called the city's 3-1-1 help line after realizing what she'd done Thursday. On Friday, city Taxi and Limousine Commissioner Matthew Daus appeared at her door with the $40,000 viola in hand. The commission says cab driver Deniz Getting will receive an award for returning the instrument.

Memorial to slain gay student dedicated in Wyo.

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP)—The nation—and the city of Laramie—has become more accepting of gays and lesbians in the 10 years since a gay University of Wyoming student was beaten, lashed to a lonely fence and left to die, his mother said Saturday. "We've learned a lot, we've talked a lot; we do it in public forums now," Judy Shepard said at a ceremony dedicating a bench to her son, Matthew Shepard. "So it's a wonderful tribute to Matt that these kinds of things are discussed." Shepard died Oct. 12, 1998, five days after he was found brutally beaten and tied to the fence outside Laramie. The two men who killed him are serving life sentences in prison.

McCain calls govt officials handling bailout deal

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP)—Republican John McCain placed phone calls to President Bush and Republican congressional leaders Saturday to help steer a bailout of failed financial institutions. His campaign and that of rival Barack Obama also sought to steer perception of the first presidential debate.

The two candidates sparred over foreign policy and the economy - including the $700 billion proposal to stabilize U.S. markets being considered by Congress - in a 90-minute televised forum Friday at the University of Mississippi.

Neither candidate decisively won the debate nor committed any game-changing gaffe. But that didn't prevent each campaign from proclaiming victory and spending much of Saturday trying to shape the perception of the forum in the days going forward.

Obama's campaign quickly produced an advertisement criticizing McCain for never uttering the term "middle class" in the debate. Campaign manager David Plouffe held a conference call with reporters where he called McCain's efforts to paint Obama as inexperienced on foreign affairs "sophomoric."

McCain harshly criticized Obama's debate performance Saturday in a speech to the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance.

"It wasn't such a good night for my opponent," McCain said, saying among other things that Obama was trying to use the looming market meltdown for political gain.

"It was clear that Senator Obama still sees the financial crisis in America as a national problem to be exploited first and solved later," McCain said.

Asia

Chinese cheer as astronauts makes first spacewalk

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese celebrated their nation's first spacewalk Saturday, gathering at outdoor TV screens to cheer live video of the milestone for a program that has ambitions of building a space station and challenging the U.S. and Russia in offworld exploration.

Stoking national pride one month after the close of the Beijing Olympics, state television's coverage reflected much of the glory onto president and Communist Party leader Hu Jintao, who was present at Thursday's launch and watched the spacewalk at Beijing's ground control center.

"Your success represents a new breakthrough in our manned space program," Hu told the astronauts in a scripted exchange that was also broadcast live.

"The motherland and the people thank you," said Hu, who is chairman of the powerful Communist Party and government military committees that oversee the space program.

The spacewalk was mainly aimed at testing China's mastery of the technology. Mission commander Zhai Zhigang's sole task was to retrieve a rack attached to the outside of the orbital module containing an experiment involving solid lubricants.

Tethered to handles attached to the Shenzhou 7 ship's orbital module, Zhai remained outside for about 13 minutes before climbing back inside through the open hatch.

"Greetings to all the people of the nation and all the people of the world," Zhai said into an external camera he floated halfway out of the open hatch.

Fellow astronaut Liu Boming also emerged briefly from the capsule to hand Zhai a Chinese flag. The third crew member, Jing Haipeng, monitored the ship from inside the re-entry module.

AP

In this video grab taken at the Beijing Space Command and Control Center released by China's Xinhua News Agency, Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008, Chinese astronaut Zhai Zhigang walks out of the orbit module of the Shenzhou-7 spacecraft for a spacewalk.

Taiwan braces for Typhoon Jangmi as storms strike

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Authorities evacuated villagers from landslide-prone areas in Taiwan and residents boarded up windows amid torrential rain and wind as Typhoon Jangmi roared toward the island Sunday.

The usually bustling capital of Taipei was eerily quiet with only a few cars on streets buffeted by the stormy weather.

CTI Television showed villagers evacuating the scenic mountain resort of Lushan in central Taiwan, clutching small bags of personal belongings. The area was badly damaged when Typhoon Sinlaku hit two weeks ago, with massive mudslides destroying at least three hotels.

Hundreds of fishing boats sheltered at ports, and domestic flights and rail services were canceled, television stations reported.

Taiwan's China Airlines and EVA Airways said several flights to Asia were canceled or rescheduled for Monday. China's Southern and Hainan Airlines canceled their flights to the island from Beijing and Shanghai.

The Disaster Relief Center said authorities were closely monitoring the water levels in rivers, particularly at 19 major bridges that will be closed if necessary.

Key nations call on Myanmar to release Suu Kyi

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Nations concerned about Myanmar called on its military government Saturday to release all political prisoners, including pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, and to start talking with the opposition.

The so-called Group of Friends, which includes the United States, Britain, China, Southeast Asian countries and the European Union, also called on the junta to cooperate with the United Nations, which has tried with little success to nudge the regime toward engagement with its opponents. The nations met at the United Nations on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly's ministerial session.

Suu Kyi

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who called the meeting, said in a statement afterward that it "is a clear signal of the importance that the international community attaches to the situation in Myanmar."

The Security Council and Ban had hoped Myanmar's ruling generals would respond to international pressure to embrace national reconciliation following its violent suppression of massive, anti-government protests in Yangon last year, but so far they have not.

The Security Council has demanded that the military regime release all political prisoners, talk with the opposition, open the political process and end human rights abuses.

Ban and his special U.N. envoy, Ibrahim Gambari, have actively pursued talks with leaders of Myanmar's government.

"The people have not been forgotten by the international community," British Foreign Secretary David Miliband said.

US general: Taliban can't launch winter campaign

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A top U.S. general said he expects militant violence in Afghanistan to rise some 30 percent this winter compared with last year, but that he does not think insurgents have the ability to mount a massive campaign during the country's harsh weather.

Maj. Gen. Jeffrey J. Schloesser said the U.S. will attack militant cells in areas of Afghanistan where U.S. forces in some cases haven't operated before but where officials now realize "the enemy is seeking to remain as a rest and facilitation area in the winter."

Winter has traditionally been seen as a down time for fighting in Afghanistan, but Schloesser said offensive operations by U.S. troops this year could dispel that notion.

U.S. troops will "take advantage of our mobility and capacity to operate in the snow and to be able to find the enemy," he told The Associated Press in a telephone interview Thursday.

Militants will have the option to be "captured, killed, to reconcile or flee," the general said. "And I think fleeing will be very hard in the winter, especially if they're in flip flops or sandals."

In January 2007, U.S. airstrikes killed some 120 militants crossing the border on foot from Pakistan into Afghanistan, and a video of the attack taken by a drone showed that many of the insurgents - who were walking in a single-file line through mountainous terrain - were barefoot.

Schloesser said he thinks militants are now better equipped with boots and sleeping bags but don't have the ability to conduct complex operations in deep snow or freezing weather.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Former Japan PM Koizumi announces retirement

TOKYO (AP)—Former Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, known for his flamboyant style and love of Elvis Presley, said Saturday he is retiring from politics. Koizumi, 66, was Japan's third-longest-serving post-World War II leader. He told his supporters that he would give up his parliamentary seat in the next elections, which could take place as early as November. "I am not going to run in the next general elections," Koizumi, who still serves as a lower house lawmaker, told a meeting in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo. Kyodo News agency reported Saturday that Koizumi's 27-year-old second son, Shinjiro, would run for the seat from his father's constituency in the next elections. Officials from Koizumi's office could not be reached for comment. During his five years in office from 2001 to 2006, Koizumi, known for his long silver hair, enjoyed stellar public support and took major policy steps.

Militants attack Pakistan forces near Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—A Pakistani official says militants mounted multiple overnight strikes on security forces near the Afghan border. Iqbal Khattak, a government official in Bajur, said Sunday that troops repulsed three overnight attacks on their positions. He claimed that 11 militants were killed but wouldn't give any details of casualties among the troops. Bajur is a tribal region where troops have been battling Islamic militants for the past two months. The military operation in Bajur is a test of Pakistan's willingness and ability to defeat militants in its border area and dissuade the U.S. from mounting unilateral strikes at al-Qaida and Taliban targets inside Pakistan.

Explosion in India's capital kills 1, injures 18

NEW DELHI (AP)—An explosion in a crowded flower market in India's capital killed a 13-year-old boy and injured 18 others Saturday, police and hospital officials said. Seven of the wounded were in critical condition, said Sanjeev, a spokesman for the state-run All India Institute for Medical Sciences who uses only one name. "The boy was brought dead to the hospital," Sanjeev told reporters. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the blast. Police spokesman Rajan Bhagat said police were investigating the nature of the explosive and described it "as a low-intensity blast." Sonia Gandhi, the governing Congress party chief, condemned the attack. "The Delhi administration should remain vigilant against such dastardly and gruesome act of terrorism," the Press Trust of India news agency quoted Gandhi as saying in a statement.

World

US destroyer watching hijacked ship off Somalia

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—A U.S. destroyer off the coast of Somalia closed in Saturday on a hijacked Ukrainian ship loaded with tanks and ammunition, watching it to ensure the pirates who seized it do not try to remove any cargo or crew.

As Russian and American ships pursued the hijackers of the Ukrainian-operated vessel, pirates seized another ship off Somalia's coast, an international anti-piracy group said.

The Greek tanker with a crew of 19 is carrying refined petroleum from Europe to the Middle East. It was ambushed Friday in the Gulf of Aden, said Noel Choong, who heads the International Maritime Bureau's piracy reporting center based in Malaysia. He said pirates chased and fired at the ship before boarding it.

In Somalia, a man claiming to be spokesman of the pirates holding the Ukrainian ship said the hijackers want $35 million to release the vessel. But there was no way to immediately verify his claim that he represented the pirates.

On Thursday, pirates seized the Ukrainian ship Faina en route to Kenya with 33 Russian-built T-72 tanks and a substantial quantity of ammunition and spare parts. Russia's navy said Friday it had dispatched a warship to the area, and the United States said American naval ships were tracking the Ukrainian ship with special concern because of the weaponry on board.

The hijackings were the latest in a series of audacious maritime attacks off the coast of Somalia, a war-torn country that has been without a functioning government since 1991.

AP

In this May 28, 2008 file photo, the U.S. Navy destroyer, USS Howard, sails off the coast of Hawaii during sonar exercises, on Wednesday, May 28, 2008.

A U.S. defense official said the destroyer USS Howard is pursuing the hijacked Ukrainian vessel and is now within a few thousand yards of it. The hijacked ship is anchored a few miles off the Somalia coast, said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the situation.

The destroyer is watching to make sure the pirates do not try to remove anything, the official added.

The USS Howard's Web site says it is equipped for combat operations at sea with surface-to-air missiles, Tomahawk cruise missiles, antisubmarine rockets, torpedoes, and a five-inch rapid-fire deck gun.

Kenyan government spokesman Alfred Mutua said the Faina had not yet docked at any port and was still at sea.

Kenya "is not aware of any credible (ransom) demand being made," Mutua said in statement on his Web site. He said Kenya "does not and will not negotiate with international criminals, pirates and terrorists."

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry said the Kenyan Defense Department was using its contacts to try to resolve the problem. It said Kenyan authorities were sharing information with Somalia, Ukraine, Russia, the U.S. and Britain in an effort to secure the swift release of the ship and its crew.

A man who spoke to the Associated Press in Somalia by telephone and claimed to be a spokesman for the pirates said they were seeking a ransom.

UN reaffirms previous sanctions on Iran

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a new resolution Saturday reaffirming previous sanctions on Iran for refusing to halt its uranium enrichment program and offering Tehran incentives to do so.

The speedy vote followed a compromise between the United States and Russia to lead a new council effort to condemn Iran's nuclear program, without introducing any new sanctions.

The brief resolution reaffirmed the three earlier Security Council sanctions resolutions, which imposed progressively tougher sanctions on Iran for refusing to halt its uranium enrichment program.

U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad said the council had restated its call for Iran to comply with the resolutions and cooperate with the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency, the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"It is unacceptable for Iran to defy the security council resolutions," Khalilzad said.

Iran's mission to the United Nations immediately condemned the resolution as "unwarranted and unconstructive," and said Iran remained determined to exercise "its inalienable right for peaceful uses of nuclear technology."

Council members met behind closed doors earlier Saturday to hammer out the draft resolution.

The resolution was designed to send a signal that "our resolve has not weakened on this issue, that the discussions among our political directors about the next steps remain very much there," British Foreign Secretary David Miliband said.

Even envoys from countries that abstained in votes on the past resolutions said they supported the measure.

"Once a resolution is adopted by the Security Council, it is incumbent upon member states to comply with it," said Indonesia's U.N. Ambassador Marty Natalegawa.

He said Indonesia would reaffirm the need to comply with past measures against Iran, although Jakarta did not support them at the time and abstained on the last sanctions resolution adopted on March 3.

Russia blasts US dominant role in world affairs

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Russia called Saturday for a revival of the global anti-terrorism coalition that formed after Sept. 11, 2001 but started to unravel with what it called the subsequent domination by a single power - a veiled reference to the United States.

"The solidarity of the international community fostered on the wave of struggle against terrorism turned out to be somehow `privatized'," Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told the U.N. General Assembly's annual ministerial meeting.

Lavrov cited the U.S. invasion of Iraq "under the false pretext of fight on terror and nuclear arms proliferation" and questions of excessive use of force against civilians in counterterrorism operations in Afghanistan.

And he said the recent crisis over Georgia's breakaway provinces of Abkhazia and South Ossetia proved again that "it is impossible or even disastrous to try to resolve the existing problems in the blindfolds of the unipolar world."

"Today, it is necessary to analyze the crisis in the Caucuses from the viewpoint of its impact on the region and the international community on the whole," Lavrov said.

"It has become crystal clear that the solidarity expressed by all of us after 9/11 should be revived (without double standards) when we fight against any infringements upon the international law," he said.

Lavrov called for a new "solidarity" of the international community and a strengthened United Nations, saying only in the post-Cold War world can the organization "fully realize its potential" as a global center "for open and frank debate and coordination of the world policies on a just and equitable basis free from double standards."

"This is an essential requirement, if the world is to regain its equilibrium," he said.

Lavrov also lashed out at Georgia's "aggression" and bombing of South Ossetia's sleeping capital of Tskhinvali on Aug. 8 and defended Russia's intervention "to repel aggression" and fulfill its peacekeeping commitments.

No interim peace deal with Israel, Saudi says

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Arab nations will totally reject any partial or interim solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict because historically such arrangements have become permanent, Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said Saturday.

While supporting current Israeli-Palestinian negotiations to reach "a comprehensive final solution," Prince Saud Al Faisal said "the least that we expect from Israel during these negotiations is that it should halt all settlement operations."

"The continuation of settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories renders the negotiations meaningless and makes it difficult for us to convince our peoples of the feasibility and benefits of achieving peace," he said.

At a Security Council meeting Friday on Israeli settlements, held at Saudi Arabia's request, Saud said the settlement problem is the "one issue that threatens to bring down the whole peace process."

He said that addressing it was the only way to save the peace deal brokered in Annapolis, Maryland, early this year by President Bush's administration, which set the goal of achieving a substantive peace accord by January 2009 when he leaves office.

Saud took up the issue again in a speech he was scheduled to give to the U.N. General Assembly's annual ministerial meeting. He did not deliver the speech and it was distributed to all U.N. members, said Brenda Vongova, the assembly president's assistant spokeswoman.

WORLD BRIEFS

Armed robberies in Egypt's remotest desert

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—The abduction of a European tour group in a distant corner of Egypt's desert underlines the potential dangers of adventure tourism pushing deeper into remote destinations and getting closer to conflict zones. In the case of the 11 Europeans and eight Egyptians held since Sept. 19, the lawlessness in the desert plateau of Gilf al-Kebir may be a spillover from the violence in eastern Chad and Sudan's Darfur region, where armed bands are notorious for hijacking and robberies. Desert tour operators and security officials say there have been several robberies and car-jackings of tourists over the past year by heavily armed gunmen at Gilf al-Kebir, near the Sudanese and Libyan borders, which never previously saw such incidents. Until recently, desert guides often ran into smugglers in the area but each side left the other alone, said guide Mahmoud Nour el-Din, who has led tours to the Gilf and other parts of Egypt's Western Desert for 12 years.

Car bomb kills 17 in tightly controlled Syria

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—A brazen car bombing near Syrian security offices killed 17 people Saturday, the deadliest attack in decades that raised questions about the regime's usually strong grip as the country tries to boost its international profile. The explosion came only hours after Syria's foreign minister held a rare meeting in New York with his American counterpart, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. State-run television said a car packed with an estimated 440 pounds of explosives blew up on a road on the capital's southern outskirts, wounding dozens and shattering car and apartment windows. The charred booby-trapped car sat in the street near a primary school. The blast knocked down part of a 13-foot-high wall surrounding a security service complex that houses several buildings in the Sidi Kadad neighborhood. Syrian Interior Minister Bassam Abdul-Majid called the bombing a "terrorist act." He said all the victims were civilians, although at least one of the injured was a traffic policeman.

Morales: Second Bolivian region expels US aid

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)—President Evo Morales says a second Bolivian region has asked the United States to withdraw its aid programs as diplomatic relations between the two countries continue to sour. Morales on Saturday congratulated local indigenous groups in the southern Bolivia province of Chuquisaca for becoming "territory free of ... American imperialism" after deciding this week to expel the U.S. Agency for International Development, or USAID. He did not offer futher details. Earlier this year Bolivian farmers asked USAID to leave the coca-growing Chapare region. Morales expelled the U.S. ambassador earlier this month, accusing him of encouraging the leftist leader's conservative opposition. The U.S. ambassador has denied the allegations.

Health & Fitness

Arthroscopic surgery is not the only treatment for knee problems

By JEANNINE STEIN
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

The prognosis for people with knee osteoarthritis isn't so bleak as it might seem in the wake of a study finding that arthroscopic surgery, once hailed as promising, might not be the best option.

That study, released in the Sept. 11 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine, suggested that people who underwent the surgery didn't fare any better in the long run than their counterparts who received physical therapy. During the surgery, small incisions are made through which a small camera and surgical instruments are inserted. Physicians can then repair or remove cartilage, or flush the knee to remove debris—or do both procedures.

The trick is to find one or more treatments—amid the array that includes medication and physical therapy—that can ease the pain of worn cartilage. It can take some work.

"When patients come into my office," says Dr. Ronald Grelsamer, a knee surgeon in the orthopedics department at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, "I give them a list of 17 options to help them manage their condition. At the very bottom is arthroscopy. It works for a little while, but it's not going to cure it. ... What I've found is that nothing works for everybody, and everything works for somebody."

Oral nonsteroidal anti-inflammatories, such as Celebrex, can reduce inflammation and pain, as can cortisone injections. Hyaluronic acid injections can replace some of the viscous synovial fluids that lubricate the joints but that sometimes decrease with age. Acupuncture and massage also might alleviate pain. But as people get older and knees become more worn, the ultimate remedy could be a total knee replacement.

And although a New England Journal of Medicine study in 2006 found that glucosamine and chondroitin supplements fared no better than a placebo among 1,583 people in reducing knee pain by 20 percent, some doctors still recommend it. "The average effect is quite small," says Dr. John FitzGerald, assistant professor of rheumatology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles, "and it can be slow-acting. That study is open to interpretation; I think on average it works a little bit for some people."

But much can be said for consistent exercise, which can also tamp down pain and improve mobility, according to health experts. One study published in the Annals of Internal Medicine compared a physical therapy program of manual therapy and exercise with a placebo program of subtherapeutic ultrasound, and it found that exercise improved walking distance and function, pain and stiffness scores far greater than the placebo.

A good first line of defense, health experts say, is shedding some pounds. "You can get some long-lasting effects," FitzGerald says. Even a little makes a huge difference, because walking and running can put extra force—equivalent to several times one's body weight—on the knees with every step. "Even with 5 to 10 pounds, which is a reasonable goal, people can expect a fairly significant improvement in knee pain," he says.

The recommendation comes with a snag, however: When knees hurt, the motivation to exercise goes south.

"Unfortunately, you can't wait for the knee to get better to start exercising," FitzGerald says. "Start exercising, and then the knee will get better."

Laura Bennett, a physical therapist who works with osteoarthritis patients at Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles, has a use-it-or-lose-it philosophy when it comes to battling osteoarthritis.

"If we don't use it, we lose strength in our muscles and range of motion," she says. "We can compensate for a while, but if we become stagnant in our movements, then our joints don't get the fluid they need, which means they don't get the nutrition they need, then arthritis sets in, and it hurts to move, so we don't want to move."

Walking, swimming and water workouts are great for some people with arthritic knees, Bennett says. "Being in the water takes a certain amount of body weight off the knees and hips. Joints have an easier time moving and the water gives muscles some resistance." Walking time and intensity should progress gradually, she says. Many physical therapists will examine patients' muscle strength and flexibility from their feet to their hips and back, plus assess alignment and gait, possibly prescribing exercises and stretches to correct disparities and weaknesses.

"A lot of times with osteoarthritis," Bennett says, "it could be a muscle imbalance that's causing it, where one side might be weaker and one side is tighter, and people are not working at a biomechanical advantage." It's also not just the knees that are worthy of attention—other joints that support them, such as the hips and ankles, are important to shore up as well.

Depending on the person, therapy might include a hamstring stretch that can be done sitting or lying down (stretching muscles helps increase joint flexibility). In that move, a belt is looped around one foot and the straightened leg lifted until a stretch is felt along the back of the leg. This can be repeated three times and held for 30 seconds on each leg.

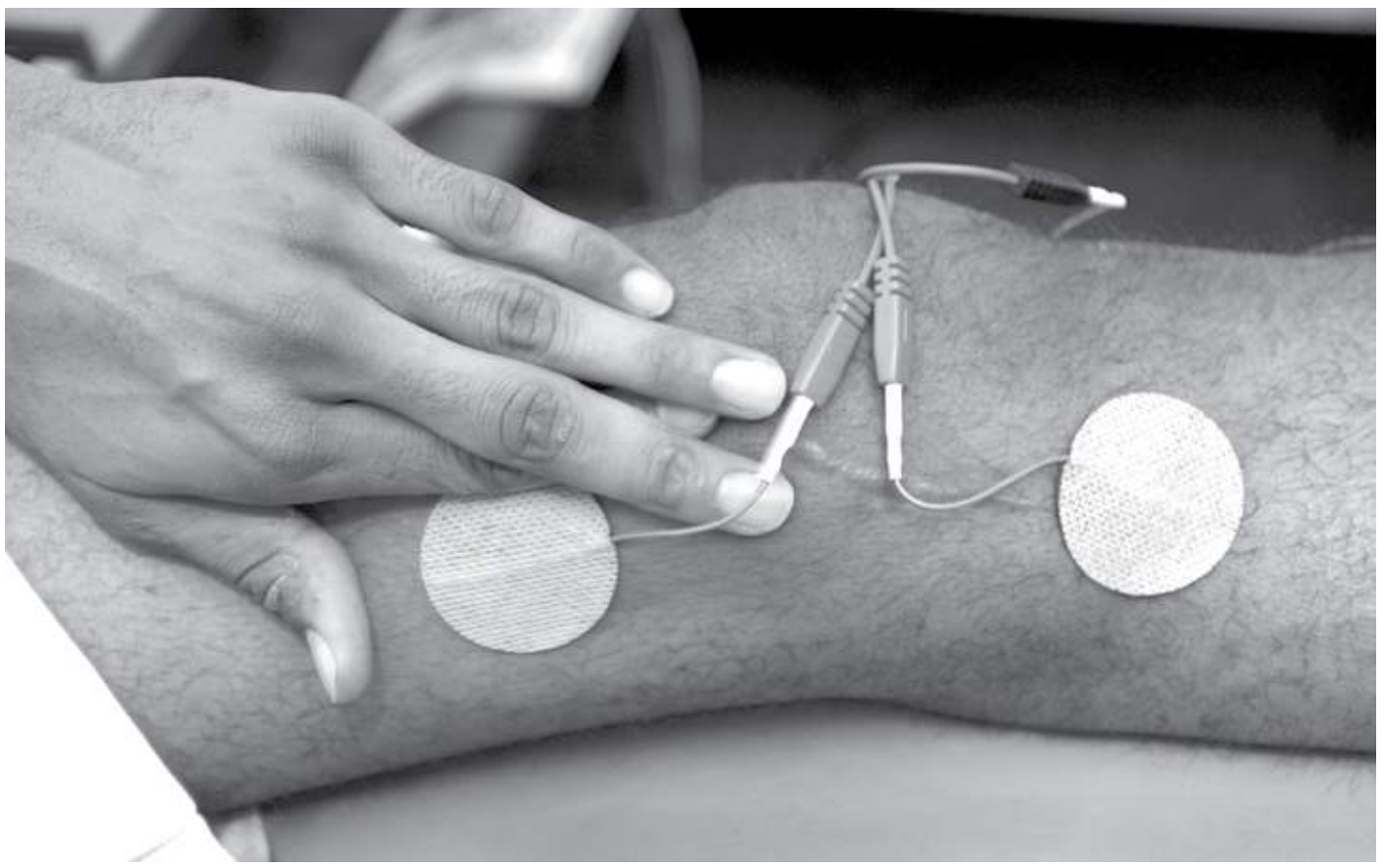
External hip rotators, which are part of the kinetic chain that supports the knee, can be strengthened by lying on one side with knees bent, the top leg raised like a clamshell. (Note: No exercises should be attempted before consulting with a physician or licensed physical therapist.)

In examining movement patterns during walking or running, Christopher Powers, associate professor of biokinesiology and physical therapy at the University of Southern California, looks for "dynamic misalignment," checking to see if knees fall inward or if there's an abnormal rotation at the hip or foot. These, he says, can put undue torque and stress on the ligaments, joints and cartilage. Therapy, he adds, can take some of those stresses off the knee joint.

Because biomechanics vary from one person to the next, therapy programs need to be tailored but might include working with patients to change their gait—not always an easy task, considering that walking is something most people do automatically. "The patient has to be aware of what they're doing and why they're doing it," he says.

"Your muscles are kind of like shock absorbers," Powers adds, "and when they're not working well, you start to rely on your passive shock absorbers, like your cartilage and bone."

Patients might be able to get referrals for licensed physical therapists from their doctors or hospitals. The American Physical Therapy Association also has lists of members on its Web site, www.apta.org.



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Electrical stimulation strengthens muscles to help the knee.

Jaw damage is traced to one type of osteoporosis drug

By SUSAN BRINK
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Drugs to treat osteoporosis are not without possible side effects, most notably a widely publicized condition in which jawbone tissue dies.

Pun absolutely intended, Dr. Thomas B. Dodson explains: , " `Bisphosphonate-related osteonecrosis of the jaw' is a mouthful." His expertise is another mouthful—oral and maxillofacial surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital. He's an expert on—let's just call it BRONJ.

The problem has been linked to drugs called bisphosphonates, ranked 10th in U.S. sales among all drug categories, according to IMS Health, which analyzes pharmaceutical and health care markets. Most cases come after someone has been treated for cancer with potent, intravenous forms of the drugs. About 1 in 10 cancer patients treated with IV bisphosphonate develops the jaw problem.

But a handful of cases have shown up in women taking much smaller doses of the drugs for treatment of osteoporosis.

Bisphosphonates—marketed as Actonel, Aredia, Boniva, Didronel, Fosamax, Reclast, Skelid, Zometa and others—are meant to increase bone density in the short run by reducing the bone-loss part of the bone life cycle. But some scientists think the drugs may eventually hurt the jaw's ability to heal after, say, a tooth extraction or a dental implant.

The estimates on the number of people who might experience the jaw problem range from 1 in 2,000 to as many as 1 in 300 people who take the drugs for osteoporosis.

In the U.S., 55 million prescriptions for bisphosphonates are written annually, according to a 2007 report in the journal Osteoporosis International. Even if not all of those prescriptions are filled, and even if many of the women who start taking the drugs stop, the number of problems in the dentist chair will likely rise.

Most commonly, people with problems will see or feel some exposed bone in the mouth, as the dead bone works its way through gum or tissue, but without pain. In those cases, people are simply told to use an antibacterial mouthwash. If there's pain or discomfort, and the area of exposed bone is small, a dentist will try to smooth down the exposed area.

In rare cases, the area of dead bone is large. "Then people run the risk of breaking the jaw, because the area is so large," Dodson says.

So why would a medicine that circulates through the entire body result in a pharmaceutical punch to the jaw?

It could be, Dodson says, that bone in the jaw metabolizes at a speedier rate than in other parts of the body so more of the drug is getting deposited there. And because there is more bacteria in the mouth area, that could add to inflammation, worsening the problem.

Or it could be, he says, that the mechanism of the drug is at work. Bisphosphonates inhibit cells that dissolve bone. "But dissolving bone is part of a healthy life cycle," he says. The natural balance between dissolving bone and making new bone is disrupted and bone-producing cells now dominate. But when they die off, there are fewer cells to clean them out, and they remain, a dead mass.

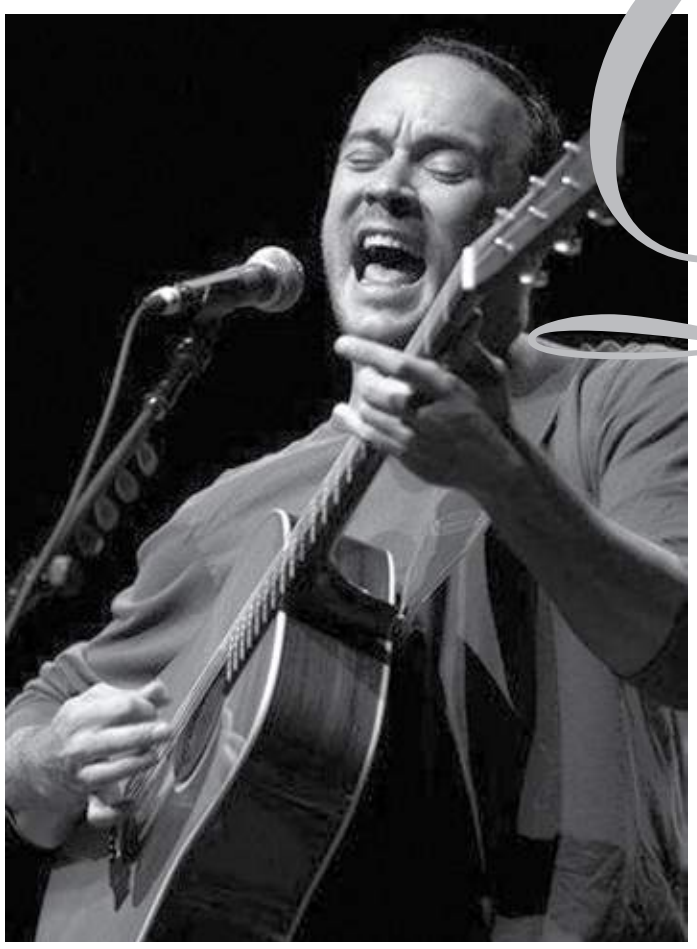
Dental procedures—tooth extraction, dental implants, oral surgery—can increase the risk of a problem because of trauma to the jaw. That's why the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons recommends that if a woman is going to begin taking a drug for osteoporosis, she have dental work done before she starts.

If she's been taking the drug for three years or more, the association recommends a three-month drug holiday before having nonemergency oral surgery.

But for women who've been on the drug, an urgent problem—such as a throbbing toothache—should be dealt with immediately, even though there may be a 1 in 300 chance that she has BRONJ.

Life & Style

Dave Matthews helped produce new Palahniuk film



AP

In this Aug. 24, 2008 file photo, musician Dave Matthews performs at the Green Sunday At Red Rocks Democratic National Convention welcoming concert in Morrison, Colo.

Dave Matthews has acted in a few films, but the Grammy-winning musician has been playing a behind-the-scenes role in Hollywood of late—that of film producer.

The singer of his namesake band co-founded ATO Pictures and has served mostly as a silent partner. But in the company's latest film, "Choke," the musician was adamant that ATO do more than help finance the film.

"I felt very strongly about us being connected to the project. ... I loved the script," Matthews told The Associated Press during a phone interview Friday before performing with his band in the Brazilian city of Manaus.

"Choke," which was released Friday by Fox Searchlight Pictures, is an adaptation of a novel from "Fight Club" author Chuck Palahniuk.

The film, which stars Sam Rockwell, is about a sex addict named Victor Mancini who likes to pretend he's choking in restaurants to garner strangers' sympathy and then fleece them. When Mancini isn't doing that, hooking up with fellow sex addicts or working at a historical theme park, he's trying to cajole the truth of his paternity from his mentally ill mother.

Matthews doesn't appear in the film, but he championed it once he read the script and the book.

"What Chuck manages to do is make an unusual story not unusual, and I think the film makes that (as well)," Matthews said. "There's a very sweet story at the core of it: This young man's struggle to find out who he is."

Last year, ATO produced "Joshua," a film about a musical child whose family life dramatically alters once his baby sister is born.

Matthews wrote the song that the child character croons as the film draws to a close.

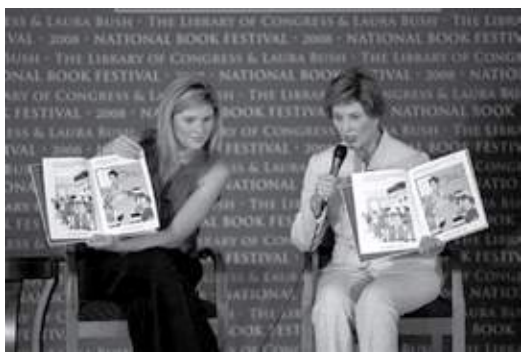
For "Choke," Matthews worked on planning and supporting the movie.

"My involvement was much more in discussing how to get the film done ... (being) really more of a cheerleader," he said.

The opening of "Choke" comes as Matthews and his bandmates work to wrap a tour only weeks after the untimely death of LeRoi Moore, the band's saxophonist and arranger, and one of its founding members.

Moore died Aug. 19 in Los Angeles of complications stemming from a June 30 accident near Charlottesville involving an all-terrain vehicle. He was 46.

Laura Bush, daughter Jenna read at Natl Book Festival



AP

First lady Laura Bush and her daughter Jenna Hager read their book 'Read All About It!' during the National Book Festival in Washington, Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008.

WASHINGTON (AP)—First lady Laura Bush and daughter Jenna took a lesson from their own book Saturday at the National Book Festival.

The mother and daughter co-authors were about to read their new book, "Read All About It!"—about a boy who initially doesn't like to read books until strange visitors gain his attention—when they realized many of the children in their audience of about 300 were too far away to see the book's pictures. Some were even losing interest.

Dozens of youngsters were quickly organized and led to the front of the stage inside the pitched tent where the authors sat - closer than the public usually gets to first family members.

"We might be in trouble with security, but we're sure they're (the children) safe," said Jenna Hager, who took turns with her mother reading about a boy named Tyrone, who is bored with books until getting caught up in their stories.

The first lady - a former librarian and literacy advocate who helped bring the annual book festival to the National Mall - told the audience the book was inspired by a former student of hers "and all those little boys who would rather do anything than listen to a story."

Turkish film 'Pandora's Box' wins at San Sebastian

MADRID, Spain (AP)—The Turkish film "Pandora's Box" has won the top prize at Spain's San Sebastian Film Festival.

A statement from the festival says the film's Tsilla Chelton also won one of two best actress awards given. The film is called "Pandoranin kutusu" in Turkish and is directed by Yesim Ustaoglu.

The festival has awarded Britain's Michael Winterbottom as best director for his drama "Genova," while Iranian director Samira Makhmalbaf's film "Two-legged Horse" took the festival jury's special prize.

The best actor award was given Saturday to Argentina's Oscar Martinez for his role in "El nido vacio" (The Empty Nest), and the other best actress award went to American Melissa Leo for her part in "Frozen River."

In Celebration of Her New Life

Margarita Manahane Benavente Seman

Affectionately known as "Nan Badig"

Born on February 3, 1934
Was called to her eternal rest by our Dear Lord on Monday, September 22, 2008

IN HER NEW LIFE, SHE NOW JOINS HER:
HUSBAND: *Jose Igibor (Maguines) Seman*
PARENTS: *Guillermo Villagomez Benavente & Carmen Manahane Benavente.*
Son: *Joseph B. Seman* **Great Grandson:** *Angelo Christian Rasa Aichi*

SISTER / BROTHERS & SPOUSES:
Antonio M. & Victoria M. Benavente / Fernando M. & Faustina S. Benavente / Ana B. & Felipe C. Aldan / Ignacio M. & Isabel A. Benavente / Roman M. & Dolores T. Benavente / Rudy Sedmik.

PARENTS-IN-LAWS:
Vincente Parong & Jacoba Igibor Maguines Seman

SISTERS / BROTHERS-IN-LAWS & SPOUSES:
Ramona S. Chong / Felipe M. & Maria T. Seman / Joaquin M. & Maria C. Seman / Juan M. & Esperenza T. Seman / Odorico M. Seman / Vicente M. Seman / Lorenzo LG. Iriarte

HER MEMORY WILL LIVE IN THE HEARTS OF HER:

SONS/DAUGHTERS & FAMILIES:
Nicolas *& Dolly Muna (Michelle, Elaine/Oscar, Jason, Nick Jr., Raymond & Nicole)*
Catalino *& Lucy Sanchez (Catherine, Craig/Nasia)*
Oscar C. & ***Patricia S****. Rasa (Diego/Jennifer, Vania, Oscar II, Margaret/Lino)*
Mario & ***Vivian S****. Taitano (Valerie)*
Benjamin B*. & Dorothy T. Seman (Benjamin Jr., Darriette & Deeshya)*
Richard B. *& Lorraine M . Seman (Vinycia/Jeff, Ricky, John, Anthony & Lorisha)*
Joseph Zachary B. Seman

REARED CHILDREN:
Thelma B*. Inos & Rufin S. Inos (Rozanne, Rufin Jr. & Vincent)*
James Benavente

SISTERS / BROTHERS-IN-LAWS:
Rosa B*. & Takesi Royal*
Maria B*. Sedmik*
Bernadita B*. & Charles Helstrom*

Sister-In-Law: *Lucia Seman Iriarte*
Brother-In-Law: *Dr. Jose L. Chong*
Caregiver: *Rose Capinpin*

She will also be missed by numerous Grand Children, Great Grand Children, Nieces, Nephews, Relatives and Friends.

Daily Mass is being offered at 6:00 a.m. at Our Lady Of Mount Carmel Cathedral and at 6:00 p.m. at St. Jude Church except on Saturday at 7:00 a.m. & Sunday at 8:00am. Rosary is being prayed at 7:00 p.m. at our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral.

On Tuesday, September 30, 2008, *her remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home in San Jose to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 a.m. followed by Responso & Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 a.m. followed by burial at Mt. Carmel Cemetary.*

Your Thoughts and Prayers are greatly appreciated

From the Family

Actor by trade, Newman had passion for auto racing

Paul Newman wanted to be a great athlete (AP)—he just never found a sport in which he could excel. Then, while filming the movie "Winning" in 1969 at age 43, he discovered auto racing.

"I was never a very graceful person. The only time I ever really feel coordinated is when I dance with Joanne," he once told The Associated Press, referring to his wife, Joanne Woodward. "And that's not my doing. But when I'm behind the wheel of race car, I feel competent and in charge. It's something I really enjoy."

Newman, an Oscar-winning actor, entrepreneur, philanthropist, activist and race car driver, died of cancer Friday at his farmhouse near Westport, Conn., publicist Jeff Sanderson said.

"Paul Newman, a real American hero," NASCAR team owner Jack Roush said.

Newman spoke of his passion for racing during a 1995 interview with the AP shortly after he was part of the winning team in the Daytona 24-Hours sports car endurance race. He was 70 years old at the time. No one remotely close to that age had ever won in that event.

Newman could be terse and distant in his rare interviews, but he would light up when he talked about his favorite sport.

"I don't like talking about acting because that's business and pretty boring," Newman told the AP another time. "And politics can get you in trouble. But I'll always talk about racing because the people are interesting and fun, the sport is a lot more exciting than anything else I do, and nobody cares that I'm an actor. I wish I could spend all my time at the racetrack."

When Newman decided to get into racing, it was more than just being in the cockpit that interested him. He became a car owner in the Can-Am Series, campaigning cars for a number of top drivers, including Indianapolis 500 winners Al Unser, Danny Sullivan and Bobby Rahal, as well as Formula One champion Keke Rosberg.

After competing against team owner Carl Haas in Can-Am, Newman formed a partnership with the Chicago businessman, starting Newman/Haas Racing in 1983 and joining the CART series.

With Mario Andretti hired as its first driver, the team was an instant success. Throughout the last 26 years, the team - now known as Newman/Haas/Lanigan and part of the IndyCar Series - has won 107 races and eight series championships with drivers like Michael Andretti, Nigel Mansell, Cristiano da Matta, Paul Tracy and Sebastien Bourdais.

"He was just a great guy and truly loved everything about racing," Michael Andretti said.

Despite a heavy schedule, Newman came to the track as often as possible. He tried without much success to keep a low profile as he roamed pit lane on his motor scooter or sat at the team's pit box, his baseball cap pulled low over those famous blue eyes, a pair of reading glasses - used for reading the timing and scoring monitor - dangling from a string around his neck.

AP

In this July 4, 1978 file photo, actor Paul Newman sits in a C production Datsun 280-Z at the Lime Rock Park Track in Lakeville, Conn. Newman, the Academy-Award winning superstar who personified cool as an activist, race car driver, popcorn impresario and the anti-hero of such films as "Hud," "Cool Hand Luke" and "The Color of Money," has died, a spokeswoman said Saturday. He was 83.

"Paul and I have been partners for 26 years and I have come to know his passion, humor and, above all, his generosity," Haas said. "Not just economic generosity, but generosity of spirit. His support of the team's drivers, crew and the racing industry is legendary. His pure joy at winning a pole position or winning a race exemplified the spirit he brought to his life and to all those that knew him."

Newman's many charitable works extended to racing. Kyle Petty and his wife founded a camp for chronically ill children in North Carolina, modeled on Newman's Hole in the Wall Gang camps.

"He was dedicated to giving back to those less fortunate and with each child we see, we honor his spirit and vision," Petty said.

Two-time Sprint Cup champion Tony Stewart competed against Newman in several sports car races.

"He set the bar, not only with his giving, but in how he gave. ... Paul did it right, and he did it with class," Stewart said.

After playing the role of an Indy 500 driver in "Winning," Newman found he couldn't get the driving bug out of his system. And he found he had a real talent for the sport.

Newman began racing sports cars in amateur divisions and won his first race in 1972 at Thompson, Conn., in a Lotus Elan. He earned the first of four SCCA National title in 1976 in the D-Production class and also won championships in the 1979 C-Production category, as well as taking the GT-1 championship in 1985 and 1986.

His first professional victory came in the rain at an SCCA trans-Am race at Brainerd, Minn., in 1982.

When Newman arrived in the media center at Brainerd for the winner's interview, a bottle of champagne in hand and a huge smile on his face, he found just two writers waiting for him.

"Where is everybody? I guess I'll have to win something a little bigger than this to get any attention," he said.

Newman added another Trans-Am win at his home track in Lime Rock, Conn., in 1986.

He often said one of the things that attracted him most to racing was the camaraderie in the pits and paddock. And Newman loved a good practical joke, even when it was played on him.

During a race in Elkhart Lake, Wis., several drivers conspired to pull a fast one on him. They hired a bus and sent it to a home for the aged, telling the residents that actor Paul Newman had invited them for lunch and a day at the track. About 40 women jumped at the offer.

Newman was at the track when a crewman came in and said, "Paul, there's a bunch of people out here who say they're supposed to have lunch with you." Newman came out of his motor coach smiling and played the role of gracious host at a hastily arranged lunch for the adoring ladies.

When the Indy Racing League was formed, Newman/Haas stuck with CART and Newman tried numerous times during the 12-year split to broker a deal to get the rival organizations back under one banner.

Once, when a deal appeared close in the late 1990s, Newman summoned a writer to his motor coach at Portland, Ore., and demanded: "Write about this now and we'll put some pressure on these people to get this done," he said, with a profanity tossed in to underline his point.

It finally did get done, but not until this past February.

Newman was thrilled by the unification, even though it was the IRL's IndyCar Series that wound up the winner of the internecine warfare.

"It's about time," Newman said. "Now, we can tell potential sponsors we have a future and mean it, and we can develop great, young drivers that will attract new fans to the sport. The future looks much brighter now."

As he passed his 80th birthday, he remained in demand. He managed to combine acting with racing by providing the voice of a crusty 1951 car in the 2006 Disney-Pixar hit, "Cars."

Newman drove his last race as a professional in the 2005 Daytona 24-Hours and even ran some hot laps around his beloved Lime Rock Park in August.

As the years went on, people kept asking him when he was going to quit racing. His reply was standard.

"That's what Joanne keeps asking me," he said.

Tina Fey reprises role as Sarah Palin on `SNL'

NEW YORK (AP)—Tina Fey reprised her role as Sarah Palin on "Saturday Night Live," again appearing as the Republican vice presidential candidate in an opening sketch.

Saturday night's show—the third of the season for the NBC comedy program—brought back the season premiere tandem of Fey and Amy Poehler, who opened the season with a memorable sketch featuring Fey as Palin and Poehler as Hillary Clinton.

This time around, Poehler played CBS's Katie Couric, parodying the interview with Palin earlier this week. Poehler, though, mostly played straight man to Fey, who ratcheted up her performance of Sen. John McCain's running mate by satirizing her foreign affairs experience.

When Poehler's Couric pushed Fey's Palin to specifically discuss how she would help facilitate democracy abroad, Fey gave in: "Katie, I'd like to use one of my lifelines. ... I want to phone a friend."

When a confused Poehler informed her that that wasn't how the interview worked, Fey's Palin responded—alluding to one of the governor's most quoted lines from the interview—"Well, in that case, I'm just gonna have to get back to ya."

AP

In this Sept. 16, 2007, file photo Tina Fey is seen in Los Angeles. Fey reprised her role as Sarah Palin on "Saturday Night Live," again appearing as the Alaskan governor in an opening sketch on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008.

Fey, a former cast member and head writer of "SNL," has seemingly been thrust back into regular appearances on the program despite her full-time gig with NBC's "30 Rock."

She is widely considered to look like Palin, and "SNL" executive producer Lorne Michaels persuaded her to ride the show's hot hand. Her first appearance as the Alaskan governor two weeks ago was a huge hit, helping boost the premiere's ratings and garnering attention online.

Fey wasn't the only former cast member who returned Saturday night. Chris Parnell came back to play presidential debate moderator Jim Lehrer in a sketch that parodied Friday night's contest between McCain and Democratic rival Barack Obama—which occurred less than 27 hours earlier than the live "SNL" broadcast.

The sketch mainly played up McCain's attempts to shake up the debate process, as Darrell Hammond's McCain urged his opponent to join him in "nude or seminude" town hall meetings.

At the outset, Parnell announced: "Throughout the debate, I will urge you both to look at one another up to and beyond the point it becomes uncomfortable."

AP

In this Dec. 2, 2007 file photo, Busta Rhymes arrives at "Movies Rock: A Celebration of Music in Film," at the Kodak Theater in Los Angeles.

Rapper Busta Rhymes keeps London concert date

LONDON (AP)—American rapper Busta Rhymes has performed at a charity concert after overcoming his problems with British immigration.

Rhymes—whose real name is Trevor George Smith Jr.—performed at London's Royal Albert Hall Friday night after winning a court order allowing him to stay in the country.

High Court judge Nicholas Stadlen gave the go-ahead, saying he did not want to disappoint 4,000 young people who won their tickets by performing community work.

Immigration officials stopped Rhymes on Thursday at London City Airport, with his promoters saying they cited previous legal trouble in the United States. In March a New York judge sentenced Rhymes to three years' probation for assaulting his former driver and a fan.

Paul Newman, Hollywood's anti-hero, dies at 83

WESTPORT, Conn. (AP)— Paul Newman never much cared for what he once called the "rubbish" of Hollywood, choosing to live in a quiet community on the opposite corner of the U.S. map, staying with his wife of many years and - long after he became bored with acting - pursuing his dual passions of philanthropy and race cars.

And yet despite enormous success in both endeavors and a vile distaste for celebrity, the Oscar-winning actor never lost the aura of a towering Hollywood movie star, turning in roles later in life that carried all the blue-eyed, heartthrob cool of his anti-hero performances in "Hud," "Cool Hand Luke" and "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid."

The 10-time Academy Award nominee died Friday at age 83, surrounded by family and close friends at his Westport farmhouse following a long battle with cancer, publicist Jeff Sanderson said Saturday.

In May, Newman dropped plans to direct a fall production of "Of Mice and Men" at Connecticut's Westport Country Playhouse, citing unspecified health issues. The following month, a friend disclosed that he was being treated for cancer and Martha Stewart, also a friend, posted photos on her Web site of Newman looking gaunt at a charity luncheon.

But true to his fiercely private nature, Newman remained cagey about his condition, reacting to reports that he had lung cancer with a statement saying only that he was "doing nicely."

As an actor, Newman got his start in theater and on television during the 1950s, and went on to become a legend held in awe by his peers. He won one Oscar and took home two honorary ones, and had major roles in more than 50 motion pictures, including "Exodus," "Butch Cassidy," "The Verdict," "The Sting" and "Absence of Malice."

Newman worked with some of the greatest directors of the past half century, from Alfred Hitchcock and John Huston to Robert Altman, Martin Scorsese and the Coen brothers. His co-stars included Elizabeth Taylor, Lauren Bacall, Tom Cruise, Tom Hanks and, most famously, Robert Redford, his sidekick in "Butch Cassidy" and "The Sting."

AP

In this 1960 file photo, actors Paul Newman, left, and Joanne Woodward appear in character in this scene from the film "From the Terrace." Newman, the Academy-Award winning superstar who personified cool as an activist, race car driver, popcorn impresario and the anti-hero of such films as "Hud," "Cool Hand Luke" and "The Color of Money," has died, a spokeswoman said Saturday. He was 83. Newman died Friday, Sept. 26, 2008, of cancer, spokeswoman Marni Tomljanovic said.

"There is a point where feelings go beyond words," Redford said Saturday. "I have lost a real friend. My life - and this country - is better for his being in it."

Newman sometimes teamed with his wife and fellow Oscar winner, Joanne Woodward, with whom he had one of Hollywood's rare long-term marriages. "I have steak at home, why go out for hamburger?" Newman told Playboy magazine when asked if he was tempted to stray. They wed in 1958, around the same time they both appeared in "The Long Hot Summer." Newman also directed her in several films, including "Rachel, Rachel" and "The Glass Menagerie."

"Our father was a rare symbol of selfless humility, the last to acknowledge what he was doing was special," his daughters said in a written statement. "Intensely private, he quietly succeeded beyond measure in impacting the lives of so many with his generosity."

With his strong, classically handsome face and piercing blue eyes, Newman was just as likely to play against his looks, becoming a favorite with critics for his convincing portrayals of rebels, tough guys and losers. New York Times critic Caryn James wrote after his turn as the town curmudgeon in 1995's "Nobody's Fool" that "you never stop to wonder how a guy as good-looking as Paul Newman ended up this way."

But neither his heartthrob looks nor his talent could convince Newman to embrace the Hollywood lifestyle. He was reluctant to give interviews and usually refused to sign autographs because he found the majesty of the act offensive.

"Sometimes God makes perfect people," fellow "Absence of Malice" star Sally Field said, "and Paul Newman was one of them."

Newman had a soft spot for underdogs in real life, giving tens of millions to charities through his food company and setting up camps for severely ill children. Passionately opposed to the Vietnam War, and in favor of civil rights, he was so famously liberal that he ended up on President Nixon's "enemies list," one of the actor's proudest achievements, he liked to say.

A screen legend by his mid-40s, he waited a long time for his first competitive Oscar, winning in 1987 for "The Color of Money," a reprise of the role of pool shark "Fast Eddie" Felson, whom Newman portrayed in the 1961 film "The Hustler."

THE FILMS OF ACTOR PAUL NEWMAN

"The Silver Chalice," 1954.
"Somebody Up There Likes Me," 1956.
"The Rack," 1956.
"The Helen Morgan Story," 1957.
"Until They Sail," 1957.
"The Long Hot Summer," 1958.
"The Left-Handed Gun," 1958.
"Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," 1958.
"Rally 'Round the Flag, Boys!" 1958.
"The Young Philadelphians," 1959.
"From the Terrace," 1960.
"Exodus," 1960.
"The Hustler," 1961.
"Paris Blues," 1961.
"Sweet Bird of Youth," 1962.
"Hemingway's Adventures of a Young Man," 1962.
"Hud," 1963.
"A New Kind of Love," 1963.
"The Prize," 1963.
"What a Way to Go," 1964.
"The Outrage," 1964.
"Lady L," 1965.
"Harper," 1966.
"Torn Curtain," 1966.
"Hombre," 1967.
"Cool Hand Luke," 1967.
"The Secret War of Harry Frigg," 1968.
"Rachel Rachel," (director) 1968.
"Winning," 1969.
"Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," 1969.
"WUSA," 1970.
"Sometimes a Great Notion," 1971.
"Pocket Money," 1972.
"The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds," (director), 1972.
"The Life and Times of Judge Roy Bean," 1972.
"The Mackintosh Man," 1973.
"The Sting," 1973.
"The Towering Inferno," 1974.
"The Drowning Pool," 1975.
"Silent Movie," (cameo), 1976.
"Buffalo Bill and the Indians ... or Sitting Bull's History Lesson," 1976.
"Slap Shot," 1977.
"Quintet," 1979.
"When Time Ran Out," 1980.
"Fort Apache The Bronx," 1981.
"Absence of Malice," 1981.
"The Verdict," 1982.
"Harry and Son," 1984.
"The Color of Money," 1986.
"Fat Man and Little Boy," 1989.
"Mr. & Mrs. Bridge," 1990.
"The Hudsucker Proxy," 1994.
"Nobody's Fool," 1994.
"Twilight," 1998.
"Message in a Bottle," 1999.
"Where the Money Is," 2000.
"Road to Perdition," 2002.
"Our Town," 2003.
"Empire Falls," 2005.
"Cars," (voice) 2006.

Good reading habits learned early pay lifelong dividends

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I wrote your mother back in 1985, asking her to encourage my eighth-grade students to establish the wonderful habit of reading. My letter was published in The Portland Oregonian.

I still teach eighth-graders, but now I do it in California. It has been 23 years since your mother wrote my students about the importance of reading.

Today we have computers, text messaging and cell phones. It's a different world now, but reading is still important. Would you write a couple of paragraphs about the joys of reading in your column? Your advice will be heeded by my students and many other students in the country who read your column. Kids relate to celebrities, and you are definitely famous. Thank you for your help.

RAY SMYTHE, PALM SPRINGS, CALIF.

DEAR RAY AND DEAR STUDENTS: I'm glad to oblige. For anyone who doesn't already know, books are magic! Crack open a book and you will be instantly transported into the past, propelled into the future or, if you choose, escape into a world of fantasy. The options are endless.

But while history, science fiction, mysteries and romance provide a wealth of diversion, reading provides far more than just an escape. The greatest ideas of our most gifted thinkers lie between the covers of books waiting for you to discover them. And don't be put off if the books are labeled "classics." That word means only that they have been enjoyed by every single generation who has read them.

Reading is also a vital skill. Perusing a newspaper or doing research online, in addition to expanding your mind, can also be your transport to a successful future. And there is no more effective way to learn to write than by reading.

P.S. If this skill does not come easily for you, remember that libraries offer classes in literacy. There is no shame in needing extra help in learning to read, regardless of your age. The only shame is in not admitting it so you can get the help you need.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 28-year-old wife and mother. I love my family very much and do not lack the essentials in life. But I can't help feeling my house isn't clean enough, my home isn't good enough and I'm not good enough. Nothing in my life is up to my standards.

I see people all around me who have all of these wonderful things. They travel and have fun. I have nothing of any real worth, and I can't remember the last time I truly had fun.

I don't want to take anti-depressants to cover the problem; I want to feel better. I have considered hiring a life coach to help me find the basis for my feelings, but I am not sure if coaching is for real or where to find it. I do not live in a large city, and money is limited. I want to feel like I, and the things in my life, are enough. Help!

INSUFFICIENT IN WYOMING

DEAR "INSUFFICIENT": It's a huge mistake to compare what you have to what others do, because you will always find people who have more. True happiness comes from within, not from outside yourself. Travel, fun and possessions are not the nitty-gritty of life. You already have the most important things in life—a loving and healthy family.

Rather than looking for a "life coach"—a field that is not yet licensed — I strongly recommend you look in another direction. Your spiritual adviser would be an excellent place to start, or a licensed mental health professional who can help you put yourself back on track.

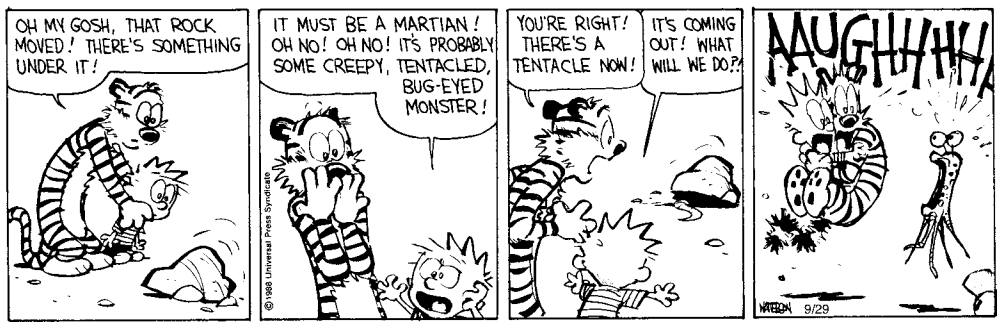
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OH MY GOSH, THAT ROCK MOVED! THERE'S SOMETHING UNDER IT!
IT MUST BE A MARTIAN! OH NO! OH NO! IT'S PROBABLY SOME CREEPY, TENTACLED, BUG-EYED MONSTER!
YOU'RE RIGHT! THERE'S A TENTACLE NOW!
IT'S COMING OUT! WHAT WILL WE DO?!
AAUGHHHHH!
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WATTERSON 9/29

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

DO YOU REMEMBER MY OLD GIRLFRIEND INGRID?
NOPE
JIM DAVIS 9-29
www.garfield.com
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..THE ONE WITH THE BULGING BICEPS?
NOT AT ALL
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
...THE CAT HUGGER?
LIKE IT WAS YESTERDAY

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

Y'KNOW, WE SHOULD EXERCISE SOMETIME.
TRIED IT. MY BEER GOT ALL FIZZY.
Glenn McCoy 2008 © Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
9-29

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Group of sailors
5 Successful overthrow
9 Skilled
12 Four-star review
13 Easy gait
14 Shape-shifter?
15 Seed coating
16 Poet Pound
17 Rawls or Reed
18 Quasimodo's concern
19 Old Olds
20 TV's Batman portrayer
21 "— Had a Hammer"
23 Doc's org.
25 Very astringent, as wine
28 Outcome
32 Mirror's offering
33 Crowd, 'tis said
34 Wee
36 Connected
37 Peculiar
38 Eternity
39 Sunup
42 "— got it!"
44 Big bash
48 Bonfire residue
49 Use a teaspoon
50 Neat and tidy
51 See 33-Across
52 Corn recipe
53 Curved molding
54 Muppet eagle
55 NY Yankee nickname
56 Subject matter?

DOWN
1 Grouch
2 Exceptional
3 Maleficence
4 Napoleon adversary
5 Member of the church
6 Leak slowly
7 Ado
8 Shell-game need
9 Competent
10 Experts
11 Lacking slack
20 Valley Forge VIP
22 Meadow
24 "Likewise"
25 Up to, poetically
26 "— Blue?"
27 Cole or Turner
29 Samovar
30 Sheltered side
31 Danson or Turner
35 Perry White, e.g.
36 Scoffed
39 Roast platform
40 Largest of the seven
41 Caprice
43 Veritas provider
45 Jason's ship
46 Stead
47 Prayer ending
49 Masseur's workplace

Solution time: 27 mins.

S	P	A		E	P	E	E		P	O	P	E
O	H	S		D	U	N	K		E	V	I	L
D	I	S	A	G	R	E	E		S	E	T	S
			U	S	E	R			V	E	R	S	E
G	A	M	E	S		M	O	A	T			
A	R	I	A		B	O	B	S	A	G	E	T
P	E	N		E	L	I	O	T		R	O	E
S	A	G	A	M	O	R	E		B	E	N	D
			R	I	T	A		B	L	E	S	S
S	C	O	T	T			T	O	O	T		
N	O	D	E		I	T	S	A	G	I	R	L
I	C	E	R		L	E	A	R		N	E	E
P	O	S	Y		L	A	R	D		G	P	A

Yesterday's answer 9-27

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11
12				■	13				■	14		
15				■	16				■	17		
18				■	19			■	20			
■	■	■	21	22		■	23	24		■	■	■
25	26	27				28			29	30	31	
32					■	■	■	33				
34					35	■	36					
■	■	■	37			■	38			■	■	■
39	40	41		■	42	43		■	44	45	46	47
48			■	49				■	50			
51			■	52				■	53			
54			■	55				■	56			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Erica Eleniak, 39; Emily Lloyd, 38; Bryant Gumbel, 60; Jerry Lee Lewis, 73

Happy Birthday: Use your Libra sophistication to gain access to groups that interest you this year. Before you know it, you will be in a leadership position. There is money to be made and new prospects in the future if you use your good sense of style and originality. Once you've got things moving along, everyone will see the value in what you are trying to do. Your numbers are 6, 8, 16, 26, 35, 40, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You'll be a little anxious, especially if things aren't moving fast enough for you. Don't hesitate to take over and push a little harder to get results. It's your insight and creative touches that will give whatever you are doing that added pizzazz. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Someone may try to outshine you at work, school or within your group of friends. Be methodical and ponder the situation fully before you decide to make a statement or move that could alter your standing. A love issue may disrupt other partnerships. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Get your work done but have fun doing it. The more networking you can fit in, the further you will get professionally. This is a wonderful time for you to express your thoughts, ideas, concerns and plans. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Concentrate on family, your lover and your friendships. So much can go wrong if you are shortsighted or neglect something or someone. A new concept or way of doing things will help you achieve more but the change may be difficult. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Open up about the way you feel and what you want to see happen. Money will come to you from an unusual source. This should help you make the changes at home that will ease stress and add to your comfort and efficiency. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Look for an interesting position in a field that suits you and you will excel. A change of career or companies or even starting your own little business can all work out well. Opportunities are present. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You've got lots on your plate and plenty of people waiting to see how you are going to handle everything. Don't let your emotions get the better of you. Let your intuition guide you, not your heart. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make a few necessary changes to your personal life and the way you divide work and down time and you will eliminate a lot of stress. Keep a level head to accomplish the most in the least amount of time. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You can charm anyone into doing anything. A chance to show your talent will ensure advancement. A trip may be spurred on by something that happens but phone ahead or deal with matters over the Internet instead of in person. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Watch what you say and be careful where you travel. Someone is trying to make you look bad, so be ready to troubleshoot when necessary. Overspending, overdoing or overindulging will lead to more trouble. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): There is an opportunity to close a deal, push a settlement through or even collect money owed to you. Your insight will guide you to make the right choices. You will win in legal matters. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Confusion is present. Don't be surprised if someone you least expect undermines you. Don't be bullheaded and forge ahead. You don't have all the facts. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative, intuitive and ingenious. Your charisma captures interest and attention. You tend to go overboard trying to please. Subtle power plays are your forte.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1					8		6	2
			6		9	5	7	
9			7			4		3
	3							6
4		5		3		2		1
2							3	
6		3			5			9
	9	1	2		3			
8	4		1					7

Difficulty Level ★ 9/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	2	7	3	6	4	9	5	8
4	6	5	2	9	8	3	1	7
3	9	8	5	1	7	2	4	6
6	7	4	9	5	3	8	2	1
2	1	9	4	8	6	7	3	5
8	5	3	1	7	2	6	9	4
5	4	6	8	3	9	1	7	2
7	3	2	6	4	1	5	8	9
9	8	1	7	2	5	4	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/27

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER **Solution: 12 letters**

D	P	E	N	L	A	I	T	N	E	U	L	F	N	I
E	O	R	G	A	N	I	Z	A	T	I	O	N	H	R
T	L	C	I	N	C	L	S	D	N	U	F	E	T	E
E	I	I	U	V	E	I	A	C	U	M	D	C	A	W
C	T	L	C	M	A	L	R	I	I	U	A	N	M	O
A	I	B	L	N	E	T	L	E	C	P	L	L	U	P
F	C	U	I	Y	U	N	E	A	M	O	O	I	L	S
I	A	P	T	T	M	O	T	I	H	A	S	T	T	R
T	L	I	E	I	S	E	C	A	M	C	T	H	I	I
L	N	I	R	L	L	R	M	A	R	I	G	A	M	A
U	E	S	A	I	E	R	E	O	N	I	T	I	E	F
Ⓜ	W	S	T	C	A	F	I	T	R	A	E	C	D	F
Ⓛ	S	U	U	A	R	L	O	O	T	Y	D	S	I	A
Ⓘ	A	E	R	F	S	T	U	D	I	E	S	A	A	V
Ⓕ	N	S	E	V	I	H	C	R	A	C	L	O	U	T

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Last Saturday's Answer: Translate

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Attorney for Plaintiff
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN INC., Plaintiff, v. AARON TAWNEY AND AGNELIA TAWNEY, Defendants.	)))))))	CIVIL CASE NO. 08-0268 **SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT: AARON TAWNEY

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after the service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Offices of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301, First Floor San Jose Court Bldg., Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way, San Jose, Saipan MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment of default may be taken against you for the relief in the complaint.

By order of this Court.

Clerk of Courts
Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands

Dated this_____day of September, 2008.

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Northern Marianas College

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E-mail: procurement@nmcnet.edu, Website: www.nmcnet.edu

INVITATION FOR BID
NMC No.: IFB 08-006
Procurement of Computers and Accessories

The Northern Marianas is soliciting for sealed competitive bids for procurement of 30 computer systems with accessories and software, 4 big flat screen television sets, 50 client access licenses. A bidder does not have to bid for all items listed in the specifications and scope of work package. All items must be deliverable within 60 days of award. In order to be considered for this transaction, all persons, firms or corporations responding to this request must provide information requested in the specifications and scope of work. Any bid/proposal received that does not provide the requested information may be rejected. Bids/proposals rejected will not be returned to the owner, but the owner will be notified.

Due Date/Time: **Wednesday, October 08th, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.**

Specifications and Scope of Work may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan or the NMC Tinian Instructional Site Administrative Offices. Monday to Friday between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Bid Packages are due Wednesday, October 08th, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan or the NMC Rota Instructional Site Administrative Office. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with NMC Procurement Regulations, and in accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118; **"Local Business Preference"** is **available to local bidders** in this procurement. For bidders located **outside the CNMI**: You may request a copy of the Invitation for Bid via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Duane R.T. Sablan (duanes@nmcnet.edu).

All bidders are hereby notified that the Northern Marianas College and CNMI Government will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the bidder to prepare a response this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the bidder. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

Approved by:

/ss/ Duane R.T. Sablan
NMC, Acting Procurement Officer

/ss/ Adrian Atalig, Director
NMC Information Technology

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND
"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(REANNOUNCEMENT)
JVA# 08-006

OPENING DATE: September 22, 2008 CLOSING DATE: October 22, 2008

Position: Internal Auditor
Location: Saipan

NATURE OF WORK: The Internal Auditor is responsible for performing comprehensive internal audits of the NMI Retirement Fund and its component organizations under the direction of the Chief Internal Auditor. Work involves the examination, investigation, and review of records, reports, financial statements, and management practices to verify legal compliance with applicable statutes and regulations. The Internal Auditor will assist the supervisor in ensuring that the work performed meets prescribed auditing and accounting standards.

COMPENSATION: Regular employee benefits apply; salary ranges from $27,437.44 to $46,920.20 (Pay Level 34).

Interested individuals may pick up an application and the complete position description from the NMI Retirement Fund, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Interested applicants must submit their application, resume, educational (college degree) and professional (certification) credentials, and police clearance on or before **5:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 22, 2008.** Applications will be accepted by hand delivery, e-mail or postal mail. **Late or incomplete application packages will not be accepted.** Packages must be marked "JVA# 08-006 Confidential." and addressed to:

Mark Aguon, Administrator
NMI Retirement Fund
PO Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

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JOB VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening date: Sept. 17, 2008 **Closing date: Sept. 30, 2008**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancies:

Executive Director	**Airport Manager**
Comptroller	**Staff Attorney**
Accountant-I	**Staff Engineer**
Accountant-II	**Saipan Port Manager**

Detailed information on minimum qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing, or may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp

All applications must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 26 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than 4:30 p.m., September 30, 2008.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman
Board of Directors

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

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• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Phillies clinch second straight NL East title

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Jimmy Rollins made a sliding stop with the bases loaded to start a game-ending double play, and the Philadelphia Phillies clinched their second consecutive National League East title by holding off the Washington Nationals 4-3 on Saturday.

Rollins went to his knees to snare Ryan Zimmerman's sharp grounder. He made a flip to second base with his glove and rejoiced when Chase Utley's relay throw completed the double play.

Brad Lidge barely escaped the ninth, getting help from Rollins at shortstop to earn his 41st save in 41 tries. Players rushed the field after Rollins' sensational play and everyone piled on near second base, beginning the party.

Jamie Moyer (16-7) allowed one run and six hits in six innings, matching Hall of Famer Phil Niekro for most wins by a pitcher 45 or older. Niekro, a knuckleballer, had 16 wins at 45 and 46 while pitching for the New York Yankees in 1984-85.

AP

Philadelphia Phillies' shortstop Jimmy Rollins celebrates with the team in the locker room after capturing the National League East title by defeating the Washington Nationals 4-3 in a baseball game, Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008, in Philadelphia.

Mets 2, Marlins 0

At New York, Johan Santana pitched a three-hitter on short rest, leading New York to a victory over Florida and a tie in the NL wild-card race.

Santana (16-7) gave the Mets just their third win in eight games and, coupled with the Brewers' loss to the Cubs, a chance to reach the postseason. New York and Milwaukee are tied for the wild card, though the Mets were eliminated from the NL East when the Phillies won.

Only once before had Santana pitched on three days' rest, and that was in the 2004 AL playoffs. He needed a career-high 125 pitches in his last outing, and he threw 117 in keeping the Mets' shaky relievers in the bullpen.

Cubs 7, Brewers 3

At Milwaukee, Ben Sheets was roughed up in his return from an injury, and Milwaukee fell back into a tie with the Mets for the NL wild card with one game left in the season.

Sheets (13-9) tried to put aside nagging elbow soreness to make his first start since Sept. 17, but gave up four runs in only 2 1-3 innings against the Cubs.

Milwaukee's lineup couldn't manage much of anything against Ted Lilly (17-9), who held the Brewers hitless until Ryan Braun led off the seventh with a double.

Now the Brewers go into the final game of the season tied with the New York Mets for the wild card. Milwaukee's CC Sabathia is expected to face right-hander Angel Guzman.

Diamondbacks 6, Rockies 4

At Phoenix, Stephen Drew's two-run single in the eighth inning off Manny Corpas (3-4) gave Arizona the win, but too late for Brandon Webb to earn his 23rd win.

Webb hoped to solidify his bid for a second NL Cy Young pitching award, but could not hold a two-run lead that he gave himself with a two-run double in the fourth. The 2006 Cy Young winner allowed four runs and six hits in seven innings. He walked two, hit two and struck out seven.

Brandon Lyon (3-5) pitched a scoreless eighth, and Chad Qualls got three outs in the ninth for his ninth save in 17 chances.

Cardinals 8, Reds 5

At St. Louis, Albert Pujols hit his 37th home run and reached 100 runs for the seventh time in his first eight seasons in St. Louis' victory over Concinnati.

Todd Wellemeyer pitched into the seventh inning and Troy Glaus' two-run homer left him two RBIs shy of 100 for the Cardinals, who have won five straight. Felipe Lopez also homered for St. Louis, which has taken 11 of its last 13 at home against the Reds.

Aaron Harang (6-17) allowed six runs—four earned—in five innings to end a late-season run of six quality starts in seven outings.

Wellemeyer (13-9) ended a three-game losing streak and finished his first full season in the rotation on a positive note, allowing three runs and seven hits in 6 1-3 innings.

Braves 11, Astros 5

At Houston, Josh Anderson hit two home runs and Jeff Francoeur drove in three runs with a pair of doubles to help Atlanta to a win over Houston.

The Braves jumped to a 9-0 lead after their first two at-bats and finished with 18 hits, tying the most allowed by the Astros this season. Reliever Vladimir Nunez (1-2) pitched 1 2-3 perfect innings, striking out one, to take the win.

Brandon Backe (9-14) went 1 1-3 innings, the shortest outing of his career, and allowed eight runs and eight hits, including two home runs, both by Anderson. He leads the major leagues with 36 homers allowed.

Padres 3, Pirates 2

At San Diego, Kevin Kouzmanoff hit a two-run homer in the first inning and Chris Young pitched six strong innings to lead San Diego past Pittsburgh.

Facing rookie Jimmy Barthmaier (0-2), who was making his third big league start, the Padres scored three runs with two outs in the first inning.

Trevor Hoffman pitched the ninth for his 30th save in 34 chances. It was the 13th time Hoffman saved at least 30 games, extending his own big league record. The 40-year-old Hoffman extended his big league career record to 554.

Young (7-6) held the Pirates to one run and five hits in six innings while striking out five and walking none.

Royals 4, Twins 2

At Minneapolis, Ryan Shealy hit a two-run single to give Kansas City the lead in the seventh inning, and the surging Royals handed the suddenly sputtering Minnesota Twins a second straight defeat.

The Twins led Chicago by a half-game in the American League Central when play began, but thanks to a bunch of missed chances by the batters and a letdown by the bullpen they faced another white-knuckle night keeping tabs on the White Sox—who hosted Cleveland later Saturday.

The loss was Minnesota's 74th of the season, one more than Chicago had going its game Saturday night. So if the White Sox win out, they win the division title.

Gil Meche (14-11) pitched into the seventh, getting two innings to end on double plays. The Twins left 11 runners on base and grounded into two more against Royals relievers.

Indians 12, White Sox 6

At Chicago, Zach Jackson pitched seven strong innings, Asdrubal Cabrera hit a three-run double off struggling Javier Vazquez in a six-run fifth and Cleveland handed Chicago its fifth straight loss.

The Indians built a 7-1 lead and put the game away with four runs in the ninth off Chicago's beleaguered bullpen. Jhonny Peralta and Victor Martinez had RBI singles, and pinch-hitter Franklin Gutierrez added a two-run single.

Paul Konerko hit a pair of homers for the White Sox. Pitching on three days' rest, Vazquez (12-16) was hit hard for a third consecutive start and failed to make it out of the fifth.

Chicago got a break before Saturday's game even started when Cleveland scratched 22-game winner Cliff Lee from his scheduled start Sunday because of a stiff neck. He'll be replaced by Bryan Bullington.

If the margin between Minnesota and Chicago stays at a half-game after Sunday, the White Sox will play Detroit on Monday in a makeup game at U.S. Cellular Field. Should the White Sox win that game and tie Minnesota, they would host the Twins on Tuesday in a one-game tiebreaker for the division title.

Tigers 4, Rays 3

At Detroit, Miguel Cabrera homered and Dontrelle Willis had his best outing of a lost season, helping Detroit beat Tampa Bay in its first game since clinching the AL East title.

Gary Sheffield went 0-for-2 with two walks, leaving him with 499 homers. Sheffield will have one or two more chances at reaching 500 this season, depending on whether the Tigers have to go to Chicago for a makeup game on Monday.

The game started about 18 hours after Tampa Bay celebrated its first division title, when the Yankees beat the Red Sox in a rain-delayed game that ended well after midnight.

Aquilino Lopez (4-1) earned the win with 2 2-3 scoreless innings of relief. Fernando Rodney pitched the ninth for his 13th save.

Orioles 2, Blue Jays 1, 7 innings

At Baltimore, the Orioles ended their 10-game losing streak, using a fine pitching performance by Brian Bass to beat Toronto in a game called early because of rain.

Bass (4-4) allowed one run and three hits in six innings. The right-hander struck out three and walked none in earning his first win in four starts since coming to the Orioles in a trade with Minnesota on Sept. 5.

Bass retired his final 13 batters; only two hit the ball out of the infield.

Lyle Overbay snapped an 0-for-23 skid with a leadoff double off Lance Cormier in the seventh, but umpires summoned for the tarp after that and called the game after a delay of 1 hour, 30 minutes.

Mariners 7, Athletics 3

At Seattle, Kenji Johjima hit a three-run homer during a six-run first inning, and Seattle beat Oakland.

Ryan Rowland-Smith (5-3) gave up three runs and nine hits in 6 2-3 innings for the Mariners. Sean Green allowed one hit over the final 2 1-3 innings for his first career save.

The Mariners loaded the bases with no outs in the first inning. After Oakland starter Greg Smith walked in a run, Wladimir Balentien doubled to left-center field to score two runs. Johjima followed with his drive over the left-field wall to make it 6-0.

Smith (7-16) didn't allow another hit after the first until Yuniesky Betancourt doubled in the fifth. Smith allowed five hits in seven innings.

Rangers 8, Angels 4

At Anaheim, California, Josh Hamilton overtook Justin Morneau for the AL RBI lead, Nelson Cruz and Chris Davis hit consecutive home runs, and Texas set a major league single-season record for doubles.

In the first two games of this series, the Rangers have 18 runs and 22 hits against John Lackey and Ervin Santana, who are scheduled to start the first two games of the AL division series against Boston.

Scott Feldman (6-8) allowed two runs—one earned—and five hits in six innings while wrapping up his first season as a starter with a 5.29 ERA.

Hamilton's two-run single during a four-run sixth that increased Texas' lead to 8-1. He has 130 RBIs, one more than Morneau. The last Rangers player to win an RBI title was Alex Rodriguez with 142 in 2002.

Mosley stops Mayorga in final second to win bout

BOXING

CARSON, Calif. (AP)—Shane Mosley stopped Ricardo Mayorga with one second left in the 12th round of their junior middleweight bout Saturday night to possibly put himself in line for a title shot.

Neither fighter appeared seriously hurt before Mosley floored Mayorga with about 15 seconds left in the final round. Mayorga staggered to his feet and took the mandatory eight count before a short left put him down again. There was no way Mayorga was going to get up after that. Referee David Mendoza stopped the bout just before it was going to end in a decision.

Mosley led by one point on judge Nelson Vasquez's scorecard and five on Tony Crebs' entering the 12th round. Mayorga had a one-point lead on judge Pat Russell's card. The Associated Press had Mosley ahead by three points entering the 12th.

Antonio Margarito watched the fight from ringside. Mosley, a former four-time world champion, has lobbied for a shot at Margarito, who stopped Miguel Cotto on July 26 in Las Vegas to win the WBA welterweight championship. Cotto earned the title by scoring a close but unanimous 12-round decision over Mosley 10 1/2 months ago.

"Mayorga is a tough fighter, he took some good shots," Mosley said. "But I wore him down. He was a lot heavier than me. He put on at least 10 pounds."

Both fighters weighed 153 1/2 pounds at Friday's weigh-in.

"I caught him with the side of my right hand and an uppercut, so I knew I hurt him and he got wobbly," Mosley said. "I felt him getting weaker during the fight, but he was trying to stay strong. I felt I was winning the fight and he stole a few rounds. But I wanted the knockout. I wanted to give the fans what they deserved, and that was a knockout.

"We had our share of rabbit punches, but he was definitely doing it more. We also exchanged some head butts, but it didn't matter in the end."

Regarding his future, Mosley said: "I have to try and find fights now. I don't want to wait around for Cotto and Margarito. I know they have plans. I know Margarito is here watching. It was interesting."

Riley settling into new role with Heat, once again

AP

Miami Heat basketball coach Erik Spoelstra talks to the media about his new team during the annual media day in Miami, Friday, Sept. 26, 2008.

MIAMI (AP)—The Miami Heat gathered on their practice court, the squeaks of sneakers and the bouncing of basketballs echoing off the walls. It was like countless workouts before. This time, however, Pat Riley wasn't the coach.

The new era of Heat basketball—with Erik Spoelstra the coach—opened with the start of training camp Saturday, and Riley insists he couldn't be happier.

A Hall of Fame coach with 1,210 wins, seven championship rings and an iconic legacy in the league, Riley decided five months ago that the time was right to turn the keys over to Spoelstra, who worked his way from the video room to the coach's chair in 13 years.

Riley is still around, but will lead from the front office, not the front lines.

"My role is that I'm the president of basketball operations and my job is to try to build this team back to where we want to become a championship contender again," Riley said. "I want to do that as quickly as I can. But I'll do it from behind my desk. I'm not going to be out there in front. I think it'll be a lot like it was the last time. ... I know where my place is."

Almost to a man, everyone in the Heat locker room, even those who never played for him, still call him "Coach Riley."

The fact that he isn't coaching anymore won't change that.

His office is a short walk from the practice floor, he'll almost be a fixture at most games—whether he's visible or not—and still has a powerful voice in every Heat personnel decision. Plus, Spoelstra isn't shy about saying he's a product of the Heat culture, the one Riley installed when he arrived in South Florida in the mid-'90s.

"All I've experienced in my two years prior to this is coach Riley running everything," third-year point guard Chris Quinn said. "But coach Spo was my summer league coach for two years, so I kind of have a little taste of it. It's exciting, kind of a new beginning, especially after last year. It's exciting to have another year and to get things going."

Riley met with Spoelstra constantly during the offseason, talking about how to revamp the roster while keeping salaries below the luxury tax threshold; the Heat did that with a mere $415,000 to spare.

But their chats were about players, not plays.

On that point, Riley is clear: It's Spoelstra's call.

"I know he's an X-and-O coach. I know that part of the game, from that standpoint, he's very knowledgeable," Riley said. "He's going to be organized. He's going to be disciplined. And I think he'll bring it out on the court, every single night."

Riley will be watching closely, of course. His role is still, in many ways, patriarchal within the Heat, having spent years grooming Spoelstra for this opportunity.

That doesn't mean that if Riley disagrees with something Spoelstra does, he'll necessarily chime in with his opinion.

"I'm not going to be up and down with him on anything that I see, that I might not agree with," Riley said. "Everybody does it differently. I trust that he's going to do it in the nature that he feels comfortable in doing it in, so I'm going to give him a free rein here."

Riley retired once before, tapping former top assistant Stan Van Gundy to be his replacement in a stunning move days before the start of the 2003-04 season, Dwyane Wade's rookie campaign.

Van Gundy eventually stepped down as well, citing family reasons 21 games into the 2005-06 season. Riley returned, led the Heat to that season's NBA title, and stayed for the last two injury-plagued years.

He insists that this time, his coaching days are done for good.

"One day I was driving to work and then all of a sudden my mind went there, and I just said, 'Thank God I'm not in there doing film and doing playbooks and doing all these things that would overwhelm your mind,'" Riley said. "Even though I'm a little bit overwhelmed with my desk duties now, that's behind me. And I love watching Erik work."

Garcia turns tables at Tour Championship

ATLANTA (AP)—The cheers weren't as loud, but Sergio Garcia had heard them before.

Six days ago at the Ryder Cup, he was helpless as Anthony Kim fired at flags and birdied nearly half his holes in a 5-and-4 romp that revved up the gallery during an American victory.

It looked like more of the same early Saturday at the Tour Championship, especially when Kim made everything in sight to build a three-shot lead on the front nine at East Lake. This time, fortunes turned in the Spaniard's favor.

Garcia kept hitting good putts until enough of them went in that he turned a three-shot deficit into a three-shot lead with a 3-under 67, leaving him poised to become only the third player to capture The Players Championship and the Tour Championship in the same year.

"We're moving in the right direction," Garcia said, referring as much to his game as a third round that put him at 8-under 202, giving him a three-shot cushion over Phil Mickelson (69) and Kim (72).

Kim couldn't go at too many flags because he was busy escaping from the rough.

The 23-year-old American hit only four fairways, and his wildness caught up with him. One tee shot hit a fan in the forehead, sending him to the hospital with a 2-inch gash that left blood on the grass. Another shot found the water. Yet another bounced off corporate tents lining the 16th fairway.

"I'm speechless how bad I hit the driver," Kim said.

He was at a loss for words when he saw the damage he inflicted on the ninth hole. His wayward shot hit 48-year-old David Whitfield on the fly, splitting open his forehead. Whitfield was taken to a hospital, but he never lost consciousness and tests were negatives.

Kim gave Whitfield's wife a golf ball that he signed with a note: "Sorry."

Garcia got up-and-down from the bunker for a birdie to catch Kim at the turn, then took the lead for good with a birdie on the par-5 15th as Kim continued to sputter.

"Obviously, AK wasn't on his A-game," Garcia said. "I still feel like he scrambled nicely. He got some putts going in the beginning. I managed to make some birdies and played solidly."

Those two young stars in the final group of the third round finally brought some energy to the post-Ryder Cup blues at East Lake, although anyone hopeful of a rematch would have been sorely disappointed.

They were laughing and chatting from the start, especially on the first green when Garcia asked if he should move his ball mark.

"He gave me of those looks like, 'I don't need to hit it that far left.' And he actually hit the left side of the coin," Garcia said. "It was one of those funny things that happen."

There wasn't much humor early on.

Garcia was closer to the cup on the first four holes—twice for birdie while Kim was trying to save par—and Kim wound up expanding his lead. Even Kim had to laugh on the fourth, when his approach from the rough came out so hot that it wound up 35 yards over the green, leaving him no shot to a back pin. His chip rolled down the ridge 30 feet away, and he holed it for par.

Garcia offered a wry smile, but he never got down.

"There's no doubt he got off to a good start with his putter, made some good putts early on and kind of went in front of me," Garcia said. "But I was just staying patient. I knew that my game was in good shape."

Kim was errant off the tee no matter what club was in his hand, and he was fortunate to lose only one shot on the par-3 sixth when his fall wound up right of the green, off the slope and into the water. Garcia closed the gap to one shot with a 12-foot birdie on the seventh, then took the momentum on the ninth.

It was an ugly scene, with Whitfield on his back covering the gash with a blood-stained towel, and Kim pacing as the paramedics arrived.

"I thought I killed him," Kim said. "It was an awful feeling to look down and see a golf ball-sized impression in his forehead and it's cut open. It was probably the nastiest thing I've ever seen. It didn't affect my golf game. I still played the way I would—I was hitting it terrible, anyway. I was hoping and praying that he'd be OK."

Garcia fell one behind with his only bogey of the round on the 13th, but he quickly surged ahead.

Kim three-putted for bogey on the 14th, took three putts from just off the green on the par-5 15th as Garcia made birdie, then hit his approach off a corporate tent on the 16th and had to scramble for bogey.

Mickelson, who saved par from 35 feet on the 11th, briefly joined them in the lead with a birdie at the 15th, only to miss the fairway into thick rough on the next hole and drop a shot. Even so, he has been lurking around the leaders all week and worked his way into the final pairing on a course where he won in 2000.

"It's fun to be in the last group," Mickelson said. "I'm looking forward to it. I know it's going to be difficult. I'm spotting Sergio three shots. I know how well he's been playing, so it'll be a difficult round for me to get it done."

Camilo Villegas had a 69 and was at 3-under 207, while Ben Curtis (68) and Robert Allenby (67) were another shot back.

NBA BRIEFS

Jason Williams retires from NBA after 10 seasons

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jason Williams announced his retirement Friday, ending his 10-year NBA career less than two months after signing with the Los Angeles Clippers. Williams, who helped the Miami Heat to the NBA title in 2006, averaged 11.4 points, 6.3 assists and shot 39.6 percent from the floor in 679 games. The point guard was drafted seventh overall pick in 1998 out of Florida by the Sacramento Kings and averaged 12.8 points and six assists as a rookie. Williams joined the Memphis Grizzlies three years later, and in 2001-02 averaged 14.8 points and eight assists. In four seasons with the Grizzlies, Williams became the club's career assists leader. He played for the Heat from 2005-2008, and started all 23 playoff games in Miami's title run. He signed with the Clippers on Aug. 7.

D'Antoni believes he can win with unchanged roster

NEW YORK (AP)—Stephon Marbury is still here and perhaps might be for a while longer. Zach Randolph is still here and apparently was never close to going anywhere. The New York Knicks will open training camp next week with mostly the same roster that was an embarrassment on and off the court while going 23-59 last season. President Donnie Walsh has made only one notable move since replacing Isiah Thomas in April, and it's the reason he thinks next season could be better even if the personnel suggests otherwise. "Mike D'Antoni. I think he's a great coach. I hope people give him a chance," Walsh said Friday. "He'll make them better I think than anybody else would." D'Antoni was a big winner in Phoenix, but it won't be easy in New York. The Knicks' roster doesn't seem suitable to the uptempo style he plays, but D'Antoni remains confident he will make it work, even though he believed there would be changes. "Sometimes the best trades you make are the ones you didn't make, so I'm going with that one," D'Antoni said. "This is who we have. I'm not worried about what if. And again, I would not be excited if I thought there's no way we can do this. I really think that the talent surprised me, there's a lot of young guys that are very good and we can do well with what we have." That includes Marbury and Randolph, two players who many around New York thought would be gone by the time camp opened next Tuesday in Saratoga Springs.

Rockets' Battier to miss bulk of preseason

HOUSTON (AP)—Houston Rockets forward Shane Battier will be sidelined up to four weeks and miss most of preseason because of an inflammation in his left foot. He had surgery May 9 to remove bone spurs from his left ankle, and the team said the foot inflammation occurred during rehabilitation. The Rockets open training camp Tuesday. The 6-foot-8 forward started 78 games last season and averaged 9.3 points and 5.1 rebounds. He was one of the team's most dependable 3-point shooters, hitting 38 percent.

OBP golf tourney to benefit CHC volunteers

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Off The Beaten Path, a local nonprofit organization dedicated to raising funds for various charitable causes, will be hosting a golf tournament that would benefit the Commonwealth Health Center Volunteers Association.

The tournament, which will be the group's first golf fundraiser, will be held at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort in Kagman on Oct. 18.

Tickets are $100 and can be purchased from any CHC Volunteer or OBP members. For more information, contact Alex Sablan at saiship@pticom.com or email obpcnmi@gmail.com.

OBP public relations officer Francine Sablan said CHC volunteers are raising funds to purchase critically needed medical equipment for the hospital.

Sablan said that the CHC-VA is an integral component of CNMI's health care system and has contributed substantially to the ability of the CHC to offer quality medial care to the people.

"Our goal is to assist the CHC Volunteers Association with raising funds to purchase a Spiral CT scan machine and a hyperbaric chamber for CHC," Sablan said.

Sablan said the CHC volunteers had worked tirelessly to extend financial support to the CHC, including the health centers on Rota and Tinian.

Through its fundraising activities, the volunteers were able to purchase several vital medical equipment, such as two mammograms, an infant hearing screener and an eight-bed telemetry system.

The list also include a video monitoring system in the ICU for up-to-date patient care, colonoscope, stenoscope, C-arm Surgical System, fiber optic bronchioscope, wheelchairs, and recliner chairs for hemodialysis patients.

Most recently, the association purchased a computer system that allows the immediate view of X-rays by doctors to benefit CHC patients and the community.

OBP hopes to see everyone at the tournament "for a friendly game of golf, a good time, and most importantly, to help the CHC volunteers with their mission of helping CHC improve the quality of health care in the CNMI."

Alaska downs Ginebra, sweeps pre-season assignments

MANILA, Philippines—Alaska's frontline made a statement Wednesday as the Aces held off repeated rallies by the Barangay Ginebra Kings for a 93-86 victory and a sweep of Group A in the PBA Pre-Season Tournament at the Emilio Aguinaldo College gym.

Led by starting center Sonny Thoss (19 points and 10 rebounds), Alaska's big men practically took matters into their hands when their go-to guys had an off night while providing the opposition a glimpse of how dangerous they could be when they're in their best element.

Tony de la Cruz added 13 points, John Ferriols contributed 12 points, six boards and two assists and Reynel Hugnatan chipped in 11 points and nine rebounds for the Aces, who stayed unbeaten in three games.

Alaska coach Tim Cone said he was pleased with their overall showing but readily confessed his troops didn't take care of business against Ginebra the way they're supposed to.

"We didn't play great today. We played just good enough against a Ginebra team that played as if the game was a matter of life and death," Cone said.

From the looks of it, the Aces have a good chance topping this tournament they ruled three years ago but Cone passed up on their stint in the Finals on Sunday in favor of a four-day team building session in Cagayan de Oro that was scheduled prior to the tournament.

If Purefoods gets past Rain or Shine in its last assignment, the Giants will take the place of Alaska in the championship game opposite the top team in Group B.

Sunday Salvacion scored 16 points and Paul Artadi had 14 for Ginebra, which picked up its second loss in as many games.

Alex Crisano, showing big improvement on his moves and shooting, and free agent Junjun Cabatu contributed 13 points apiece for the Kings, who were again without the injured Mark Caguioa, Junthy Valenzuela, Jayjay Helterbrand, Rafi Reavis and Eric Menk.

Ronald Tubid, named co-MVP of the last season's Fiesta Conference Finals, also sat most part of the game after being called for a flagrant foul penalty 2 for elbowing Alaska guard Jeffery Cariaso in the mouth that led to his banishment with 5:31 left in the second quarter.

The Aces led by as many as 15 points (41-26) late in the second quarter but the Kings managed to keep the game exciting in the second half, tying it twice at 64-64 and 71-71 before fading in the closing minutes.

Alaska 93 – Thoss 19, Dela Cruz 13, Ferriols 12, Hugnatan 11, Devance 9, Cariaso 8, Fonacier 6, Miller 6, Tenorio 5, Sotto 2, De la Pena 2, Canlas 0, Capus 0.

Ginebra 86 – Salvacion 16, Artadi 14, Cabatu 13, Crisano 13, Gavino 10, Escalona 5, Espiritu 5, Aquino 4, Holper 2, Franco 2, Pacana 2, Tubid 0. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

CNMI

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posed of Jericho Cruz, Jayvan Tarkong, Allen Moses, Marvin Rabauliman, Jomar Tumaquip, James Camacho, Joseph White, Jose Castro, Bill Babauta, and Antonio Borja.

In other results, tournament favorite Australia and Papua New Guinea posted similar easy victories over Palau.

Australia walloped the Palau Junior Nationals in the men's division contest, 122-35.

The Australian Boomers had a jackrabbit start, leading at 35-4 at the end of the first period, and never looked back from thereon.

Seven Australian players finished in double figures with Anthony Drmic leading the way with 21 points. Samuel Rowley, Jackson Hussey, and John Marriot combined for 45 points.

Perry Oiterong paced Palau with 17 markers, while Anthony Rudimch contributed eight.

In the women's division, Papua New Guinea topped Palau, 98-38.

Rachel Koivi exploded for 16 first-quarter points to lift PNG to a 23-8 lead at the end of the first canto.

Koivi later finished with 34 points, while Nakita Travertz and Imelda Haung scored 14 apiece.

Wanda Kelulau topscored for Palau with 11 points, while Jenna Mersai and Sweety Kalbesang had eight each.

TSUNAMI

From Page 28

pensive that the usual suit.

According to various websites, the suit costs more than $500.

Tsunami Saipan would want to have two suits each for male and female swimmers and would welcome donation to purchase these items.

The suit for men comes in different styles. This includes a full body suit, dubbed "Bodyskin", a full-length "Legskin" pant, and a knee-length "Jammer" short pant. The female suit has a full-length zippered Bodyskin, similar to the male suit, as well as full length and knee-length versions of the suit with a strap-on back instead of a zipper, dubbed the "Recordbreaker" suit.

"We would welcome any donation from the community," said Good, who added that donation can be given through Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura.

Meanwhile, Tsunami Saipan thanked its anonymous donor who helped the club purchase new suits for its female swimmers.

The new suits were from Australia and are made from chlorine-resistant polyester.

"Having proper equipment for both practice and competition is a priority of the Tsunami Saipan Swim Team. The swimsuits for the girls were generously donated by an anonymous sponsor, who specifically wanted to help the girls. Practice suits do not last long, as the chlorine in the water degrades the material quickly. The donation is graciously appreciated by the girls and the rest of Tsunami Saipan officials," Good said.

For more information on Tsunami Saipan or if interested to give donations, contact Kimura via email at tsunamisaipan@yahoo.co.jp.

JOHNSON

From Page 28

at PIC-Saipan for winning the women's Open title.

The kids division, which featured flowriders in the 12-17 age group, was also a neck-and-neck battle between Hayato Nogami and Reon Nawat with the former prevailing after getting 33.17 points. Nawat had 31.43 points.

A total of 54 flowriders participated in the second edition of the annual tournament and many of them flew in from Japan and Korea just to compete in the event.

PIC, through tournament coordinator Glenn Francis Policare, thanked the following for making the event possible: Monster Energy Drink, Pepsi, Gatorade, BSEA Sunsports, Quiksilver, Tony Roma's, Capricciosa, Hollywood Theaters, Hard Rock Café-Saipan, Boarderline, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Saipan Sunset Cruises, Blockbuster Video, and Elite Printing.

Policare assured participants that the Point Break tournament will return next year and will be played on Sept. 25 and 26.

SAIPAL'S

From Page 28

third place with his 24-for-39 clip (.615). Joey Dela Cruz of Man Amigos was fourth with a 12-for-20 performance (.600).

Another Auel Auel qualifier, Lucian George landed at fifth spot by hitting 11-of-19 (.579).

PTI's Ben Aguon and Tanapag Falcons' Rodney Lifoifoi were tied with17-of-32 (.531).

Laniyo and Kaipat were co-leaders in most RBIs, both totaling 14. Julian Camacho was in solo third with 11. Taisacan and Roque Camacho tied with 10 while Dela Cruz and Mark Flores knocked in nine each.

The Top 10 pitchers, based on 14 or more innings pitched, are (in order of earned run average) Roque Camacho of PTI (0.90), Eli Rangamar of Brotherhood (2.00), Steve Igisair of Auel Auel (2.67), Lucian George of Auel Auel (2.80), Al Ngiraibuuch of the Tanapag Falcons (3.36), Henry Palacios of Ready Mix (3.43), Mike Sablan of Man Amigos (3.50), Laniyo (4.00), Tony Luzama of PTI (4.00), and Tony Olkeriil of PIC (4.84).

Roque Camacho pitched 31 innings in five games, allowing four runs, 32 hits with four earned runs.

Olkeriil pitched the most number of innings with 68 after 10 games but his ERA of 4.84 had been affected by allowing 88 runs and 143 hits and 47 ERs.

However, Olkeriil led the field in most strikeouts with his total of 14. Henry Palacios and Payton Sakuma knocked down 12 batters, Lucian George struck-out 9, Al Ngirabuuch and Donald Flores (seven) and Laniyo (six).

Olkeriil also joined Julian Camacho and Aguon for most runs scored with their 12, which were just ahead by one over the 11 of Cole Pritchard and Theo Minor.

Dela Cruz and Laniyo came up with 10 while Taisacan and Ayuyu had nine each.

Taisacan is the leader in double plays as well as triple plays with four successes in each front.

Ayuyu is the homerun leader with four. Julian Camacho and Dela Cruz, winner of three homerun derbies this year, are tied with three. Three others—Payton Sakuma, Poland Yamada, and Roque Camacho—homered twice.

Meanwhile, the team standings as of Sept. 21 are as follows: Brotherhood (8-1); PTI (8-2); Ready Mix (7-2); Man Amigos (5-2); Auel Auel (7-3); Choll Aces (5-4); SaiPal (5-4); PIC (5-6); Falcons (3-8); Haga-T (2-9); Ngiwal (1-7); and Bombers (1-10).

Games of the BASA Men's Slow-pitch League are held every Sunday at the Dandan Ballfield.

However, BASA cancelled their games last Sept. 21 to give way to the Saipan-Cell/Palau Community Association softball fundraiser.

Virtually all the players who participated in the two-day tournament, won for the third time by Mix (formerly No Ka Oi), are playing in the Belau league.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Tampa Bay	96	65	.596	–
y-Boston	94	66	.588	1 1/2
New York	88	72	.550	7 1/2
Toronto	85	76	.528	11
Baltimore	68	92	.425	27 ½

Central Division

Minnesota	87	74	.540	–
Chicago	86	74	.538	1/2
Cleveland	81	80	.503	6
Kansas City	75	86	.466	12
Detroit	74	86	.463	12 ½

West Division

x-Los Angeles	99	62	.615	–
Texas	79	82	.491	20
Oakland	75	85	.469	23 1/2
Seattle	60	101	.373	39

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

x-Philadelphia	91	70	.565	–
New York	89	72	.553	2
Florida	83	77	.519	7 1/2
Atlanta	72	89	.447	19
Washington	59	101	.369	31 ½

Central Division

x-Chicago	97	63	.606	–
Milwaukee	89	72	.553	8 1/2
Houston	85	75	.531	12
St. Louis	85	76	.528	12 1/2
Cincinnati	74	87	.460	23 1/2
Pittsburgh	66	95	.410	31 ½

West Division

x-Los Angeles	84	77	.522	–
Arizona	81	80	.503	3
Colorado	74	87	.460	10
San Francisco	71	90	.441	13
San Diego	63	98	.391	21

x-clinched division
y-clinched wild card

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Mets 2, Florida 0
Chicago Cubs 7, Milwaukee 3
Philadelphia 4, Washington 3
Atlanta 11, Houston 5
St. Louis 8, Cincinnati 5
Arizona 6, Colorado 4
L.A. Dodgers 2, San Francisco 1
San Diego 3, Pittsburgh 2
N.Y. Yankees at Boston, ppd., rain
Kansas City 4, Minnesota 2
Seattle 7, Oakland 3
Detroit 4, Tampa Bay 3
Baltimore 2, Toronto 1 1/2 innings, rain
Cleveland 12, Chicago White Sox 6
Texas 8, L.A. Angels

TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

ATLANTA (AP)–Scores Saturday after the third round of the US$7 million Tour Championship at the 7,304-yard, par-70 East Lake Golf Club:

THIRD ROUND

Sergio Garcia	70-65-67	202
Phil Mickelson	68-68-69	205
Anthony Kim	64-69-72	205
Camilo Villegas	72-66-69	207
Ben Curtis	71-69-68	208
Robert Allenby	75-66-67	208
K.J. Choi	69-70-70	209
Mike Weir	70-69-71	210
Kevin Sutherland	71-71-69	211
Jim Furyk	72-70-69	211
Ernie Els	68-73-70	211
Billy Mayfair	72-71-69	212
Trevor Immelman	68-73-71	212
Stuart Appleby	72-71-70	213
Dudley Hart	73-69-71	213
D.J. Trahan	71-72-71	214
Ken Duke	77-69-69	215
Briny Baird	74-71-70	215
Justin Leonard	73-69-73	215
Hunter Mahan	74-75-68	217
Kenny Perry	76-75-67	218
Steve Stricker	74-74-70	218
Ryuji Imada	75-72-71	218
Carl Pettersson	76-72-71	219
Vijay Singh	73-74-72	219
Bubba Watson	71-74-74	219
Andres Romero	73-68-78	219
Chad Campbell	72-73-75	220
Stewart Cink	75-73-73	221
Tim Clark	78-74-71	223

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Week in Sports

A big week for sports

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The sports community had a lot to be thankful for last week, as good news came one after another.

First was the equipment donation of various companies and individuals to the Public School System through the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association.

Ten public elementary schools on Saipan received equipment donation which will be used in the upcoming PSS Interscholastic Soccer League.

The donation package includes two Size 4 balls, one pair of football gloves, one hand football pump/needles, one ball bag, 14 pairs of shin guards, and eight pieces of flat disc. This equipment will ensure the safety of players.

Soon elementary schools on Tinian and Rota will receive the same donation package, as NMIFA wanted the two other islands to be involved, too in the promotion of football in the CNMI in the scholastic level.

Tennis has been a successful program in the Commonwealth, so CNMI netters were disappointed to learn early this year that the sport is not included in the calendar of events in the 2009 South Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

But last week, tennis made it into the list, after bodybuilding pulled out.

CNMI coach and Mini Games veteran Jeff Race said that although no decision has been made yet, still several players are interested to compete in the Cook Islands.

If Northern Mariana Island Tennis Association decides to send players in Rorotonga, the CNMI may not be skipping next year's Mini Games as earlier announced by the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association.

More good news for tennis, Pacific Oceania Davis Cup team member Michael Leong of the Solomon Islands became the first player in the region to gain professional rankings after competing in various ITF Men's Pro Circuit events for three months.

Leong is now ranked No. 1338 after competing in Australia, Colombia, Ukraine, Romania, Azerbaijian, Georgia, and Egypt.

Back to local sports events, the island's beach spikers finally got to show their wares as action in the 2008 Miller Lite 4-person Beach Volleyball League began last week with 11 teams competing for this fall's championship.

Over on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort, veteran par-buster Jess Wabol finally won in the Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic, as his Team 2A ruled the 13th edition of the annual event. Joining Wabol on the winning team were Louis Byun and Bae Young Man.

PTI was also the biggest winner in the 2008 Inter-government/Business Basketball League, as it went home with the championship trophy after beating Autonomous in the finals, 80-70.

Kelvin Fitial was adjudged Finals MVP and was very thankful for the award, as this was his first after so many years of playing in various leagues.

No Ka Oi is a many-time winner of softball tournaments here, and although it changed its team name to Mix, the same winning formula was there, leading the squad to a title-defense win the 2008 SaipanCell/Palau Community Association slow-pitch softball tournament.

Mix defeated SaiPal in the finals, 18-4.

In bowling, J.D. Torres ended Raphael Zapanta's four straight wins in the Bing Energy Drink Prince/Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament after prevailing in the September roll-off.

Unlike Zapanta, perennial winners Robert Talavera and Yho Villavicencio continued to show their tough form, topping the September roll-off of the Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Bowling.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Left, elementary school coaches receive the donation package form various sponsors and NMIFA president Jerry Tan, far left.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
NMIFA president Jerry Tan poses with the equipment donation package given to various elementary schools on Saipan last week.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Jess Wabol, center, and teammate Bae Young Man, left, receive their prize from Club at the Hyatt manager Robin Sapong.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Members and supporters of Mix in a group photo after their title-defense win over SaiPal in the SaipanCell/PCA slow-pitch softball tournament at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kana Aikawa is one of the CNMI netters interested to compete in the 2009 South Pacific Mini Games in the Cook Islands.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
PTI's Kelvin Fitial drives against three Autonomous defenders during the championship game in the PTI caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN. MONROYO
Finals MVP Kelvin Fitial, center, poses with teammate Brad Ruszala and Kathryn Barry, regional marketing manager for PTI.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
The Top 3 placers in the Queen of the Lanes September roll-off, from left, Ron Cal, Yho Villavicencio, and Lynn Teregeyo.

A big week for sports

The sports community had a lot to be thankful for last week, as good news came one after another.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Phillies clinch second straight NL East title

Jimmy Rollins made a sliding stop with the bases loaded to start a game-ending double play, and the Philadelphia Phillies clinched their second consecutive National League East title by holding off the Washington Nationals 4-3 on Saturday.

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CNMI cagebelles routed in debut

WWW.FIBAOCEANIA.COM

CNMI's Dion Diaz looks for a teammate to pass the ball to, as she is trapped by a Tahiti defender during their game in the FIBA Oceania youth caging yesterday at the University of Guam Fieldhouse in Guam.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tahiti gave the debuting CNMI Women's Junior National a rude welcome, clobbering the Commonwealth cagebelles, 101-30, in the opening game in the 7th FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament at the University of Guam Fieldhouse yesterday.

Last year's All-Star team member Alizee Lefranc led Tahiti's demolition of the CNMI, firing 32 points. Lucie Matohi added 27 points.

With the way Tahiti started the game, there was no way that CNMI could keep its foe within a striking distance.

Lefranc and Matohi anchored Tahiti's attack in the first quarter, which ended with the French colony comfortably ahead by 19 points, 25-6.

Tahiti broke the game wide open with a 26-6 run in the second period to take a 51-14 halftime lead.

Lia Rangamar and Nicole Lebria began picking up the scoring for the CNMI in the second half, but their efforts were not enough to overpower the potent 1-2 punch of Tahiti.

Lebria topscored for the CNMI with 12 points, while Rangamar chipped in eight. Dion Diaz contributed five.

Tahiti have been competing in the FIBA youth tournament for the past several years, while the tournament is the CNMI's first.

Elias Rangamar, who led the CNMI to a gold-medal finish in the 2006 Micronesian Games, is coaching the CNMI cagebelles.

Rangamar's wards will face Fiji next.

The CNMI also has a team in the men's division of the tournament, and the Commonwealth's bets were battling host Guam at press time.

Rufino Aguon is handling the CNMI Men's Junior Nationals, which are com-

See CNMI on Page 26

Tsunami Saipan wants LZR suits for swimmers

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan swimmers, from left, Angel Marie Tan, Marystar Welch, Ashley Welch, Sarah Johnson, Thea Minor, and Angel de Jesus in their new swimsuits.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Realizing how LZR Racer Suit helped Olympic gold medal winners Michael Phelps and Kosuke Kitajima shave off their racing time, Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan is hoping to have the "fastest swimsuit in the world" available for its swimmers.

"The high tech suit can realistically shave off time in the water. In a sport where events may be won by hundredths of a second, any advantage is important," Tsunami Saipan president Stan Good said.

The LZR Racer Suit is a line of high-end swim suits manufactured by Speedo using a high-technology swimwear fabric composed of woven elastane-nylon and polyurethane-Gore-tex.

Speedo developed the suit through the help of NASA, Ansys, Inc., which supplied fluid flow analysis software and support, and the Australian Institute of Sport.

As of Aug. 14, 2008, 62 world records have been broken by swimmers wearing a LZR Racer, and 33 of the first 36 Olympic medals have been won wearing it. Like other suits, LZR Racer allows better oxygen flow to the muscles, and holds the body in a more hydrodynamic position, while repelling water. The seams of the suit are ultrasonically welded to further reduce drag. The suit reportedly can lower racing times for a competitor by 1.9 to 2.2 percent.

But with its special features comes a price which is more ex-

See TSUNAMI on Page 26

SaiPal's Bobai leads batters, PTI's Camacho tops pitchers

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Latest individual statistics from the ongoing 2008 Belau Amateur Softball Association Men's Slow-pitch League show that Leo Bobai of SaipPal emerged as the leader in batting average while pitcher Roque Camacho of PTI reigned supreme on the mound.

Other players who made their mark were Julian Camacho, Ben Aguon (runs scored), Ben Taisacan (doubles, triples), Jerry Ayuyu (homerun), J.J. Laniyo and Kyle Kaipat (RBIs), and Ruben Olkeriil (strikeouts).

As of Sept. 21, Bobai averaged .684 after hitting 13-for-19 at-bat but his team, SaiPal, was struggling in seventh place in the 11-team field league.

Players in the Top 10 had 19 times or more at-bats. Bobai was the only player from his team who joined the fray.

Laniyo, ace pitcher for pacesetting Brotherhood, was running second with .636 batting average, registering 14 hits in 22 times at-bat. Two other Brotherhood sluggers, Ben Tagabuel and Ayuyu, were on the list. Tagabuel's 15-for-26 (.577) was good for sixth place overall, while Ayuyu's 10-for-19 (.526) tied Auel Auel's Mel Aldan as the two shared the ninth to 10th positions.

Thunderson Sokau of PIC piled up the most hits as well as the most number of times at-bat. His effort was good enough for

See SAIPAL'S on Page 26

Johnson leads winners of Point Break Open

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Gerald Domingo, left, and Park Hwa Young in action during Saturday's 2nd International PIC/Monsters Point Break Open at PIC's Flowrider facility in San Antonio.

Ten of the more than 50 participants in the 2nd International PIC/Monster Point Break Open wowed the crowd and judges with their moves at the Pacific Islands flowrider facility in San Antonio Saturday afternoon.

Leading the list was Saipan's multi-sports athlete Andrew Johnson, who topped the Grommet (11-and-under) division of the tournament, which showcased the participants' creativity, variety, and difficulty of movements, speed, style, and poise using a bodyboard while maneuvering their way into machine-operated waves.

Johnson drew 32.9 points from the panel of five judges to finish ahead of Rion Nawata, who scored only 32.5 points.

In the centerpiece men' open division, Gerald Domingo defended his title after beating Korea's Yoon Seung Hyun and Japan's Keoni Ichihara.

Domingo, who was seeded third in the tournament after Friday's qualifying event, collected 9.2 points to prevail against Hyun (8.95) and Ichihara (8.75).

In the men's and women's open divisions, participants were graded from 0 to 10 with 10 as the highest. Each participant was given 45 seconds to one minute to execute their moves.

Domingo earned the $500 top purse for ruling the men's open.

In the women's division, fourth-ranked Park Hwa Young of Korea pulled off an upset over her higher-seeded foes.

Young scored 8.97 points to down first-picked Ko Hyun Mi (8.85) and second-ranked Cho Hyun Ji (8.4). Young won a 5-day/4-night stay for two

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